WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 5 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | SEPTEMBER 2000

"Racism is so universal in the country, so widespread and deep-seated, that it is invisible because it is so normal." Shirley Chisholm

Community Blueberry Farm Fundraiser a Success

Jeff Sowers

On a Saturday afternoon last August 5, things were hopping around the Steam Boat Island Community Blueberry Farm. This was the day of the fundraiser sponsored by the South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust (SOSCFLT), a local not for profit organization whose primary mission is to "perpetrate a sustainable food system."

When I got there, some pickers were just arriving, finding a good bucket, getting some advice on choice picking spots, or perhaps pausing to chat with a friend they hadn't seen in awhile. Others were returning from the field with their harvest: buckets brimming with large, juicy organic (not officially) blueberries. At the scales table, pickers weighed their berries. The suggested donation was $2.00 per pound, depending on income of course. Some pickers had solicited pledges on a per pound basis in advance as part of the fundraiser. There were others milling around, some playing a bit of music, having a picnic, or just relaxing in the sun.

Down on the patch pickers were sprinkled around, here and there, hard at work. Much of the patch has been overgrown by a combination of Himalayan blackberries, thistle, and hardhack (spirea). The purple flowered tops of the hardhack, which grows to several meters, can be seen poking up among the blueberry bushes in numerous spots around the farm.

SOSCFLT work parties have cleared several paths through the blackberries and throughout the farm, as well as clearing out and trimming a large section of blueberries on the west side of the farm. There remains, however, an endless sea of blueberry bushes that are in desperate need of relief from the invasive species taking over the farm, and pruning. While the easy to reach spots are well picked over, for the adventurous there remains many hidden treasures... areas full of enormous, ripe blueberries in abundant quantities.

With a tip from a friendly picker on his way back in, we headed down a path which winded around a large blackberry patch to the north end of the farm. Along with a few others, we had found heaven. It didn't take long before we had filled our stomachs and could begin working on the buckets. As we got into the full swing of picking, our timidity soon wore off and we found ourselves crawling on hands and knees, beneath the bushes, to access the inner areas of the farm. While it is all but impossible to walk around, beneath the "canopy" is a vast network of tunnels. After crawling for a few yards, we would pop up into a bush and rake in the blueberries. It was so much fun that it was hard to stop. Before we knew it we had eleven pounds of prime, organic blueberries. These we put in freezer bags and then froze for later use in such delicacies as blueberry pancakes, muffins and smoothies. Mmmmmmmm.

According to Jim McGinn, SOSCFLT board member, the fundraiser was a success, bringing in about $600. This money will be put to good use covering such things as insurance, maintenance and printing costs. Overall, about 100 people turned out.

At present SOSCFLT has a one year lease agreement with the owner of the farm, Dan Dempsey. SOSCFLT hopes to reach a long-term lease agreement soon, perhaps with an option to purchase the farm. All this, of course, depends on the level of community support and involvement. The turnout on Saturday was encouraging, said McGinn.

The Bigger Picture

To many South Sounders the Blueberry Farm represents a way to preserve some open space, and a nice place for a weekend outing. To others, it represents a part of the struggle against globalization, as well as part of the vision for a better, sustainable future.

Our current food system is geared toward making profits for large chemical and agribusiness corporations. This

(Continued on page 13)

Small-town Hate, Action and Liberty

Rachel Henneck

The night of Wednesday, July 19 2000 was ugly in Port Angeles, Washington. It manifested the strains of fear-ridden racism and homophobia that continue to exist, even though most prefer to ignore their existence.

Leaving work that evening, I headed to a party at a home I frequent, anticipating that a couple of bands would be there as I'd been told. I was greeted by several individuals whose favorite derogatory adjective was "gay." Two of them knew who I was, though I didn't know them. One of them informed me that he was "really wasted once" and had thrown my brother over a coffee table, thinking mistakenly that my brother was gay. I was puzzled as to why someone would boast about something that obviously stupid and brutish, but anger solidified in me when this same individual said, "Violence is cool."

Pictures of the rotting corpses in Rwanda came to mind along with images of the black bodies that once hung from the trees in our own country. I thought of the silently suffered rapes and beatings that occur in our town. I realized that I could not stay at that party without getting into a serious confrontation with this hate-monger. Not wanting to become a victim of his violence, I left.

Those hosting the party had not anticipated that their home was to be used by one of the bands for a white-separatist party. Need the details of it be described? Poorly composed and performed music expressed their insipid hostility and hatred.

After I'd left and gone home, the night wore on in the same sick spirit. In one neighborhood in town around three to five in the morning, a group of currently unidentified thugs singled out the vehicles of several non-white families for tire-slashing. A tent in a backyard with small children in it was slashed and showered with one individual's urine. This incident has been reported to the police. It constitutes a serious hate crime, and I encourage everyone to call the police and ask if it has been followed up. When I made my trip to the police station, however, I was given an officer who had little or nothing to do with the reporting of the crime and who listened politely to placate me. After all, I didn't have much new information, and my concern must not have made much sense to him, since I am unambiguously white.

These displays of hatred are threats to the freedom of us all, and ignoring their occurrence only hinders progress. Our silence pushes us further up against the wall with less space to move. An existence based upon fear, whether it drives one to victimize others or to remain paralyzed and anonymous, makes our society effectively more dystopian than we can imagine. In a community as white and small as Port Angeles, racial and ethnic hatred is alive and thriving. Remaining apathetic about or in denial of this issue will only leave you defenseless when you are singled out.

Rachel is a recent high school graduate and former Olympia resident -- about to be again. ◆

CHILDREN FIRST

by Frank Hoffman

Tuesday, August 22, mothers and their children, throughout the country, gathered to remark upon the anniversary of the signing by President Clinton of national welfare reform legislation.

The Olympia Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition held its event in downtown Sylvester Park. The small tent village erected in the park by Olympia women and their children was quickly copied by a tented and cardboard box village of teenagers living on the streets and by the bedrolls of homeless men. This sharing of a common space by Olympias' poor was not planned. It became a harmonious gathering held together by respect for the children darting around the park. Harmonious: well teenagers do go to bed later than children and get really loud sometimes and this made for some sleeplessness on the part of the mothers. However, the mothers had asked that the presence of their children in the space be respected and that happened, without pause, on the part of the teenagers. The exceptions were exceptions. The poor, the people on the margins, apparently try to look out for each other, help each other, respect each other.

Dodi Thrasher and Carrie Day, the two Olympia mothers who were leaders in organizing this tent city, wanted to help make people aware that welfare reform in this state and around the country, is shortsighted and cynical. It demands they leave their children for low wage jobs: leave their children in childcare that is underfunded and undependable for jobs without futures. It treats grandparents raising grandchildren the same as parents caring for disabled children. It does not put children first.

This tent village lasted from 3:00 the afternoon of the 22nd until 9:00 the following morning. A large space was sectioned off for childcare and chidcare providers were often seen tirelessly chasing their giggling wards around the park. Food Not Bombs provided dinner. There was music provided by a single mom, testimony by TANF recipients, storytelling and a brief exercise showing how the country divides its wealth and how the powerful intentionally try to pit the poor against each other.

Even though the park was not filled with tents, alot of people seemed to know this unique event was happening. Mothers and their children do not often stage protests here. We ignore the poor and/or blame them. We do not think of them as moms and kids spending a sunny summer day in the park together with the intention of showing to their community that the much touted Workfirst program really treats children, and our future, shabbily.

The media often records the loud government proclamations about reduction in welfare rolls as a result of its welfare reform. Is it reasonable to measure the success of a government program, supposedly focused on curing a significant social problem, by the number of people denied service under the program? Poverty among children in the United States continues to grow. Why do we tolerate that? The mothers in Sylvester park August 22 made it clear they don't. ◆

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

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Chaos at WIP?

Dear Editors,

I am grateful to your publication's unflinching dedication to print stories not heard in corporate media, but I must take exception to the cover story in the August 2000 edition. The headline "Chaos at KAOS?" certainly grabbed my attention because KAOS has been a tool and a platform for alternate voices of the south sound for decades. Horrible thoughts went through my head: Is KAOS losing its license? Had the college had enough and decided to pull the plug? Is it going to a top 40 format? Inquiring minds want to know.

Well after a couple of readings of the accompanying unsigned article, I can only conclude WIP documented two people were having a bad hair day and took it out on each other. This is not news, nor is free speech threatened. Lacking from your coverage of what is essentially a private matter is any whiff as to the issue Mr. Huntsberger wanted to discuss with Mr. Kelly. Was it something that could wait until later? Was it an issue that Mr. Kelly had repeatedly chose to ignore? We don't know. Sure, shouting at a volunteer isn't the best behavior, but blowing off the station manager isn't the act of an angel either.

I have known and worked with Mr. Huntsberger for over 20 years. In that time we have had our sharp disagreements. Never in that time did I feel threatened or had my access to the airwaves denied. What I have witnessed is Mr. Huntsberger being needlessly set up as an authority figure against which to rebel. If Mr. Huntsberger bit at a fraction of the insults and provocations that have come his way over the past couple of decades, there would truly be Chaos at KAOS.

What really troubles me about the WIP article is it is yet another example of The Left eating itself. It is a shame I have to say this as it should be a No Brainier, but one more time for the record: Do not attack your Allies. Save your righteous indignation for the Bastards out there who do want to hurt us. Michael Huntsberger is not one of those Bastards. The truth is Michael is an accomplished man who has balanced powerful forces to build and maintain a unique and precious left wing media organization. Who among us have shepherd a 250 watt dorm rocker in to a community radio station? Michael is man who has the guts and the class to publicly apologize for stepping over the line. Who among us haven't flown off the handle and said things we later regret. How many of us publicly apologized?

Want to slap around a few real Bastards? Try cross-referencing a Thurston County Chamber of Commerce membership list with real estate holdings, property assessments, building permits, and campaign contributions. You'll find yards of dirt to dish.

Keep up the muckraking; just choose your targets better

Laurian Weisser

Make your vote count

Dear Editor and Collective,

Before I comment on WIP Aug. 2000 articles by Tristan Baurick and Michael Moore, I urge and encourage the entire WIP readership to get behind the Gore-Lieberman ticket, by registering voters at jobsites and door to door, then getting

(Continued page 15)

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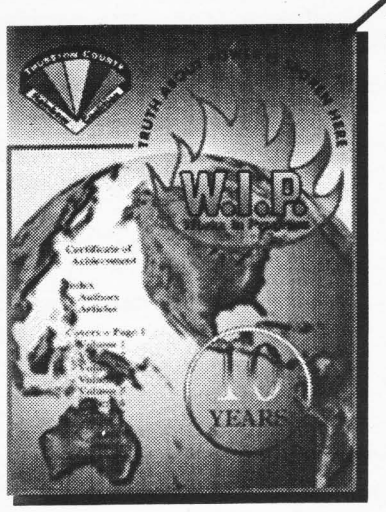

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SEPTEMBER 2000

"From Alaska to the Everglades, New Jersey to California, the Vice President talks about being an environmentalist, but he's sold out American citizens, workers taxpayers and the environment more times than we can count. He sides with clear-cutting timber barons, big sugar, big oil and real estate speculators over forests and watersheds, parks and wildlife. And we lose those fights because when Al Gore sells out, national environmental groups come to his aide, claiming the problem lies somewhere else, with Congress or federal agencies. But we all know the buck stops at the White House."

Tim Hermach,
Environmentalists Against Gore

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	**"Mr. Gore cannot pretend to be any better than Bush when his hands have the blood of the U'wa on them. So much for this environmental vice president - he would prefer to profit from an oil project in Colombia than to use his influence to protect the human rights and forest home of the U'wa."** **Shannon Wright of Rainforest Action Network.**			**1** **1999**: BlueShield and Group Health state they will no longer sell coverage to new individual subscriber in Washington state	**2** **1999**: Retired general demoted for affairs w/ subordinates' wives **1999**: Bidding on human kidney on internet hits $5.7 million
3 **1999**: Tobacco wins victory; Florida appeals court rules damage claims in landmark case must be considered 1 smoker at a time	**4** **1999**: Doctors hired by Energy Dept announces poisons at Tennessee's Oak Ridge reservation harmed a majority of its workers	**5** **1999**: UN report finds Americans work longest hours in industrialized world w/ diminishing returns; are running risk of burn out	**6** **1865**: Congressman Stevens urges land distribution to ex- slaves **1905**: Roosevelt begins insurance industry corruption investigation	**7** **1963**: US backed S. Vietnam arrests 800 high school students for demonstrating **1999**: Martial law declared in East Timor	**8** **1999**: BIA announces that most tribes still need hundred of millions of dollars more each year to meet basic needs	**9** **1999**: Senate passes Gorton's proposal to allow Forest Service to use existing studies/ data to meet survey requirements
10 **1999**: UN workers flee East Timor **1999**: Judge rules WA trooper must tell about illegal activity at 1997 female conference	**11** **1973**: Allende assassinated in Chile **1962**: 2 youths involved in voter registration derive in Miss are shot	**12** **1995**: 1,000 in DC protest plan cutting federal funding to tribes **1999**: Indonesia will allow UN peacekeeping force in East Timor	**13** **1999**: I-695 leads 62% to 32% in the polls **1999**: Miss America Pageant lifts ban on those who are divorced or have had abortions	**14** **1935**: Washington: Cordell Hull apologizes to the German Reich for Louis Brodsky's talk against Nazi rule	**15** **1999**: Forest Service Chief Dombeck will try to preserve old growth on Watch Mountain that is included in land swap w/Plum Creek Timber	**16** **1999**: 150 Nisqually Valley residents rally at local farmhouse to sign a petition opposing the proposed construction of an asphalt plant
17 **1997**: Governor Locke calls a special session to pass a bill allowing officers to check for warrants during traffic stops	**18** **1997**: The Fleetwood Building's first low-income tenants move in **1999**: Australia sends nine warships to East Timor	**19** **1885**: Chinese coal miners are driven out of Black Diamond WA **1868**: White Democrats attacked demonstrators , 9 killed.	**20** **1995**: US Reps vote to repeal 55 speed limit **1999**: International UN force enters East Timor **1999**: Polls shows support for I-695 is falling	**21** **1995**: Mariners baseball stadium was passed by 301 votes **1999**: July's trade deficit is a record-breaking $25.2 billion	**22** **1995**: Longhouse Center at Evergreen State College is dedicated **1999**: Justice Dept files racketeering lawsuit against tobacco	**23** **1999**: Forbes Magazine says 400 richest Americans for first time have amassed $1 trillion; WA has 3 of 5 richest Americans
24 **1999**: Executions in Delaware and N. Carolina raised year's total to 76, it is expected to reach 100 by the end of the year	**25** **1890**: Yosemite National Park established **1999**: Sierra Club removes its support of the federal land swap with Plum Creek Timber Co.	**26** **1996**: Palestinian police/Israeli troops battle killing 49 **1999**: Dan Quayle drops out of the 2000 presidential race	**27** **1999**: Courtroom testimony reveals a Houston oilman, friend of George Bush, Sr, got GW into Texas Air National Guard	**28** **1999**: Results of Federally sponsored writing test reveal 3/4 of schoolchildren unable to compose well-organized, coherent essay	**29** **1999**: US Korean War vets admit US troops committed a massacre of 100s, many women and children, under a bridge at No Gun Ri	**30** **1962**: Meredith escorted onto U of Miss campus by US Marshals and 3,000 federal troops. 2 men died in mob violence

Sodexho/Marriott: There is an Alternative

Peter Bohmer

The break-off of negotiations between TESC and Sodesho-Marriott on August 7, 2000 is a total victory for those opposed to Sodexho-Marriott, and its connection to the Corrections Corporation of America(CCA) and the prison for profit industry.

We have been continually told , there is no alternative (TINA), the sky will fall if Sodexho-Mariott does not get the contract, What happened as far as I can tell, is the tireless research about the horrible labor conditions of Sodexho-Marriott and its tie in to the Prison Industrial Complex by student activists, led to growing protest on this campus and the credible threat of major protest here. Student movements are most powerful when campuses are implicated in national and international issues, e.g., protests against campus stores selling clothing made in sweatshops. This is another example. The Evergreen administration finally figured out that there was going to be a major boycott, continual demonstrations if Sodexho-Marriott was the food service provider although they chose them less than one month ago in mid July. It is quite clear that the growing movement here led the TESC administration to hardening their bargaining position with Sodexho-Marriott in terms of the final contract. I think Sodexho-Marriott also got wind of the growing movement against it at Evergreen. They have been faced with protests at many colleges. This probably led Marriott to want a higher guarantee of profits leading to increasing differences in the negotiations with TESC and the negotiations were broken off for good on Monday.

This shows the power of the student led movement although of course those in power hardly ever admit that organized protest was the reason for their change in behavior.

Note that until the last minute Evergreen was saying TINA, we are continually told there is no alternative to Sodexho-Marriott. There is no alternative to the WTO, to globalization and to capitalism. What those in power mean is that they do not want any alternatives to be considered. If we organize and resist and struggle and be a little bit visionary, and go beyond the choices of Fine Host or Sodexho-Marriott, or Bush and Gore, there are alternatives, fundamental change is possible.

We are saying no to food services run for a profit, no to prisons run for a profit and are taking a stand against as the highest goal and value in life.

Let me move on to why the campaign against Sodexho-Marriott and the CCA is so important and then, what is to be done. Briefly the new religion of the United States is the free market, also known as neoliberalism in other places,. Its key enforcers include groups such as the U.S. Treasury Department and the White House, the Federal Reserve Bank, IMF, World Bank and WTO. Part of their dogma is privatization that everything should be run for a profit and not for need schools, housing, utilities, health, agriculture, even prisons. The cost in terms of increased poverty in most of the world has been devastating. Governor Locke is a big believer in this and the Evergreen administration has gone a long way with in this direction saying that they had to contract food services out to a big multinational corporation. By saying no to Sodexho-Marriott we are saying no to food services run for a profit, no to prisons run for a profit and are taking a stand against as the highest goal and value in life.

So what is to be to be donethe goal as we have stated for many months is to have good food at an affordable price with decent working conditions at a livable wage. WE have been told this is an impossible dream, I don_t think it is. It seems there are two alternative methods to reach this goal, which can be combined:

1) The Evergreen State College runs food services, the employees at food services are Evergreen employees. In this manner, profit gets taken out of the equation. Right now, these corporations make profits because we overpay for food and they underpay workers. By Evergreen running food services wages could rise and prices could fall.

2) A worker owned and operated cooperative runs food services and contracts with Evergreen to run it as a nonprofit cooperative. They could be combined, worker run but part of Evergreen. The workers, students, staff should decide.

It is up to all of us here to work towards the above goals, to not let business as usual leave us with the horrible choices of Sodexho-Marriott, Fine Host or other multinational exploiting corporations as the only choices. There are alternatives. Dare to struggle, Dare to win. ◆

CONSCIENCE - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

by Frank Hoffman

Hannah Arendt, the political philosopher, writing about Eichman, a man who carried out Hitler's orders to kill unimagineable numbers of people, said Eichman apparently didn't think about what he was doing. He just did what his bosses told him to do. She defines conscience as, "to know with and by myself". Eichman apparently never did the thinking that leads to conscience. In this context, you have to think in order to know. I'm no philosopher and I have big feet. But it seem to me thinking and conscience are as important now as at any other time. Maybe more important at this time when fundamental global change, that possibility, is starting to seem real again.

Some people seem to believe that thinking is not natural to us, to human beings, that feeling and emotion are more natural. Particularly when thinking causes us to distance ourselves from ongoing events so we can understand them and make an effort to act appropriately in the situation. This activity is often talked about as too cerebral, reactionary or simply lame. Our leaders get quickly impatient with disagreement. All leaders, all people who understand themselves to have political power or the ability to singlehandedly influence the actions and relationships of significant numbers of people, share this impatience.

Good, and a good society, would seem to depend on each citizen thinking for themselves. And in a democracy, government is supposed to respond to these decisions, or thoughts, as they become collective, as they are expressed by a majority. Our republic has strictly and narrowly formalized this expression - it can only be done effectively by voting. Our economic decisions are also narrowly circumscribed. We can only buy what is available to us. We cannot decide or vote for what it is we actually need or desire. We must choose from what is before us.

Accordingly, what we hope for, dream about, is dismissed as unrealistic. Because it often exists only within us. (And since it is still real to us, this dismissal often makes us violent to each other. Say it makes us feel helpless, powerless, so we look for people the society defines as lesser, and we take out our rage on them.)

Self conscious political activism that demands fundamental changes in the political economy is often an act of conscience.

We can consent to the common or socially accepted description of reality in the interests of getting along and staying employed and fed. If we persist in insisting on our inner reality and the possible outer manifestations, at best we have no political authenticity, at worst we are put in an institution against our will. Efforts are being made today to label as terrorists the thousands of people demonstrating in the streets out of concern about the environment and about freedom and justice; just as concerned people were dismissed as communists a few years ago or as witches a few hundred years ago.

Self conscious political activism that demands fundamental changes in the political economy is often an act of conscience. A result of thinking about how we are told to behave, about how the world works, about who we should be afraid of, and with whom we have things in common. It questions the orders we are given in all the realms of our daily lives. This thinking can also lead to answers, but not necessarily. It does not make us treat each other with respect. It does not make richer white men let go of their privilege and consider themselves as equals of all others. That takes a kind of courage that apparently does not just follow from thinking about justice and believing in it. It requires letting go of power and consciously making yourself less powerful. Men who are poor are even more reluctant to do this, they are socially marginal already. A relatively rich white man remains a relatively rich white man, even if he treats people as equals.

That is, we not only are faced with the difficulty of figuring things out for ourselves, we also have to find the courage and wisdom to act out those beliefs in ways that do not make things worse. It is of course real easy to let other people worry about all this stuff and to focus on football or sex instead (yes, some people prefer to watch football.) That avoidance seems to be what is expected - again by leaders on the left as well as on the right.

However, more and more people are realizing that when President Clinton talks about full employment, he's refering to whole families working to maintan a standard of living only one worker was able to establish not that long ago. The word games, the shell games, aren't working as well anymore. And people are getting angry and taking to the streets. Some people, so to speak, are carrying the American flag into the streets with them. If the government treats them like terrorists from Libya, they are going to drop that flag.

Can you trust the futures of your grandchildren to the people who are leaders just because they seem to share your ideology, costume and attitude. Are those important similarities enough to justify that much trust - whether you're a Democrat or an anarchist? It may not be enough to take action. We need to figure out what the right action is in these times and at this time, in this particular situation. How do we do that? Maybe we can't do it if we think in terms of us and them. Our leaders in the past have used that thinking to get our brothers and sisters to kill somebody else's brothers and sisters. How do we figure out what is really going on? How do we figure out who and what to trust?

Media with a leftist perspective brings up counter culture issues and perspectives, but it often rants (this author being the exception, of course) and distorts. Mainstream media presents the counter culture most often with a sneer of condescension and the media is often just flat out ignorant about the issues being raised. I've avoided watching television broadcasts of the two national political conventions (two and a quarter, I guess) because they seem to be like old broadway musicals without the music. I have watched some coverage of the protests which focuses on a relatively few people

(Continued next page)

Up Front

Oh, That Lovin' Feelin'

Jerome Johnson

I don't know about y'all, but I feel like politicians are drowning me in love and affection this month. In fact, I don't think I've EVER felt as politically courted, assuaged and massaged as I do now. That's because I'm a black, professional thirtysomething radical and independent voter—the kind of voter Ralph, Al and Dubya all say they need, want and love. And they've made it their business to let me know it.

At this point, Ralph Nader hasn't had to work too hard for my support. I've been following him since I was a kid, and have always liked him. The same is true of the Green Party, which if I remember correctly began in Europe almost 20 years ago. Then as now the Greens were strongest in Germany. Originally they were focused on improving the environment—hence the name—but soon branched out into the anti-nuclear movement of the 1980s, and from there into other progressive areas of politics. Now everyone knows they're a part of the ruling coalition in Germany now, but there have always been American Greens. I've always liked them, but until now they haven't been a force at the national level. Maybe that's another reason the Demos and the GOPpers are so ardently vying for my electoral affections as never before.

(Conscience, continued)

having fun with the police and ignores the thousands who disrupted their lives to try to get the national political attention away from the musicals and on their daily reality that looks increasingly grim. The earth, for example, is going to flush us if we keep forgetting we are also living beings not extraneous to it. More and more people are no longer willing to tolerate the power of the rich and the inequality which results.

Uh, the left keeps hitting on the obvious, not that I would do that. Globalization, inequality and global pollution are not new. Western civilisation requires low wage workers who have no political power. It also requires these workers to be out of sight. Been like that a long time. What may be changing is the visibility of the workers to each other. The internet facilitates global communication, not just among the rich, potentially among every village.(Unfortunately, the police are always listening and they are not above spreading disinformation.)

Perhaps a way to live a life of concscience is to think out basic beliefs. Maybe a place to start is by deciding what we are willing to live for and what we are willing to die to protect, categorically. Will we live to protect, die to protect - children? All children? Children in Somalia as well as your own? Why or why not? How would you know if the children of Somalia were at risk? Will the media tell you? What if your leaders tell you it's none of your business and to go back to your situationist readings and discussion groups?

Maybe I went off the edge there. Maybe not.

How would you know? ◆

The love fest began earlier this month in Philadelphia, at the Inclusion Illusion Show (aka the GOP convention). Even before it started, Repbulican after Republican covered the airwaves, assuring me that this would be an "inclusive" convention where "no one would be left behind." Time and again we were reminded that the GOP's favorite token, Colin Powell, would be featured as a primetime speaker. Special guest stars would be Oklahoma Rep. J.C. Watts and Bush foreign affairs adviser Condoleeza Rice, plus any other minorities the GOP could put up.

And when the convention started, it was even more sickening than expected.

And when the convention started, it was even more sickening than expected. It started with a Native American woman singing "The Star-Spangled Banner"—isn't that a little like a black person singing "Dixie"? But it went on from there. Beginning with Watts, we saw several people of color, women of color ("Twofers!") and gay people— probably every minority in the GOP was put in front of the cameras. On orders from Dubya, the GOP tried its hardest to say, "OK. Despite our bigoted rhetoric, lethal policies and the literally murderous contempt for lesbian/gay people, we're going to prove that we're not that bad. We ARE inclusive—see? At last, we're desperate enough for votes that we'll show America what we're really about, and we can be trusted."

The trouble is, ever since the Emperor Reagan took office in 1980, we've seen very clearly what the GOP is about, and it ain't pretty. Mandatory minimum sentences, wars on poor people of color, lax research into AIDS and other critical health issues, deficit spending, denial of womens' rights, illegal wars on people unable to withstand American power—the list goes on and on, and anyone reading this column knows it. Moreover, most people in America know it, and early reviews indicate that many were not conned by the GOP spinmasters. Especially when we look at the facts—such as the fact that more than 90% of the delegates were white males, and I doubt many of them were poor or working class, because most folks like us don't have the luxury of having the money or time to go to a convention, even if we have a job which carries such benefits.

For me, the GOP convention was an exercise in hypocrisy and cynicism. Hypocrisy, because the GOP didn't really want to have their convention highlight minorities and women and gay/lesbian people. They wanted to have a good old-fashioned Republican bash, laced with pepper sprays at Clinton's behavior and Gore's pandering. But Dubya—backed by Poppy Bush—is billing himself as a "uniter", and wants to be seen as "inclusive", because he knows he'll need every vote he can get. So he called Lip Service, and the con was on. The mainstream GOP grumbled and muttered under their breath, but swallowed it beacuse they'll do anything to recapture the White House and increase their majority in Congress. Even during the convention, the media broadcast accounts of Republicans whining about their "new image", wanting "red meat." That means they wanted the usual fire and brimstone and hate, and they got a little—extra lean, shall we say—when Ricahrd Cheney made his speech accepting the VP nomination. But it wasn't enough, as the GOP callers to C-SPAN and other networks made crystal clear.

This is ironic, because Dubya and the party went out of their way to keep the conservative core of the GOP happy. That was one reason why he picked Cheney, an archconservative who once voted against releasing Mandela from prison (fearing that Communists would take over South Africa) and Head Start (because it wasn't "educational enough"). Another reason he picked Cheney was his record as a Cold Warrior who supervised the Gulf War for Poppy, shoring up Dubya's lightweight foreign affairs credentials. In addition, the party platform remains traditional, repressive Republican planks—high defense spending, including Star Wars (now known as Ballistic Missile Defense, or BMD), school vouchers and prayer, repudiation of womens' choices and all the other usual horrors.

Equally (pun intended!) interesting were the things we didn't see. Just one example: we didn't see Alan Keyes, who campaigned hard all year and only recently gave up his own run for president. I think we didn't see or hear from Keyes for the same reasons we didn't hear from Jerry Falwell, Tom DeLay, the Impeachers etc: Keyes is rabidly conservative, and if he were featured it might've chipped away the the mask of diversity the party wore to the convention to deceive American voters—like me, who was supposed to be convinced that the GOP isn't really so bad after all. But I wasn't fooled—my intelligence was insulted—and I think many Americans feel the same way.

On CNN one morning, I saw one of Dubya's troops—I forget his name, but he's Ohio's Secretary of State—talking with the anchor person and the brilliant California Rep. Maxine Waters. In a pleading tone which must have sounded lame even to him, he asked, "Wouldn't it be great for African Americans if Colin Powell was Secretary of State and Condoleeza Rice National Security Advisor?"

Maxine said no, politely, and they went to break. I'll be more blunt: HELL no! The only thing worse than imperialist policy is when the victims of imperialism make and continue it. Besides, even if Dubya were to make the appointments, he'll be listening to Poppy's "wise men" Kissinger, Scowcroft, Schwarzkopf et. al. Powell and Rice make speeches, but I doubt they'll make policy, as Jesse Jackson noted recently.

Still, I was amused by the GOP's naked pandering. I hadn't seen it for several months, ever since the Party of Family Values tried so hard to separate Elian Gonzalez from his father and family and place him with distant relatives who barely knew him, relatives who exploited him for their own shallow fame to the point of abuse.

Over this past week, I watched the Democon in L.A. At least it was as sincere as politicians get, and the diversity on the podium was matched by the diversity on the convention floor, with a lot of history to back it up. Politically, Joe Lieberman is a good choice for Gore— he's a stable family man, solid New Democrat, looks good on TV. Gore's speech was one of his best yet, but he made a lot of promises he's going to have a hell of a time getting a GOP-dominated Congress to pay for. But already, Gore has done one thing right, and that's reawaken sleeping voters. I heard his speech at work, and afterward I discussed it with my co-worker. She's a single black woman, professional, in her mid-thirties. Because she's been so disllusioned, she said, she hadn't voted in years. But after hearing Gore, she said, she was going to vote—and vote for Gore. When she heard I was supporting Nader, she said that I should reconsider because that would take away a vote from Gore, thus helping Bush.

I'm not so sure. I think Dubya has the same problem Gore has—only in Dubya's case, he's worried about Pat Buchanan siphoning away votes from the hard-right conservatives. Anyway, I'm tired of being held hostage politically—one side takes me for granted and the other side writes me off. Especially since the Republicans and the New Democrats are so close alike in policy, their only real difference being on womens' issues, and again Nader is the most progressive. Without Nader and Buchanan, we have the same old 2-party choice, a choice I call the choice between vanilla and French vanilla. I despise Buchanan, but there's no doubt that a multi-pary, multi-candidate process is good for the country. I pray that Nader and Buchanan are able to join the debates, so we—the people, the voters—can get a better choice. And if that means that the Democrats and Republicans have to work a little harder, that's fine with me.

In Iraq, Venezuelan Pres. Chavez visits Saddam Hussein.

In Afghanistan—by a thread—women still work in bakeries.

In La Crosse, WI, Gore and Lieberman hit the campaign trail.

And in Thurston County, a late August rainy day heralds autumn. ◆

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Why Camp David II Failed:
No Justice for Palestinians, No Peace for Israel

Steve Niva

The failure of the recent Camp David negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians to produce a peace deal should not surprise anyone who understands that achieving justice for Palestinians is the only basis for achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East. Despite the media hoopla about this being the "last best chance for peace," the Camp David negotiations came nowhere near addressing the core issue of injustice toward the Palestinians, which, simply put, is that one people (Israel) has dispossessed another (Palestinians).

This core issue at the root of the conflict can be traced to a datable historical fact (1948) and not, as the poorly informed US Secretary of State Albright put it, a "biblical" contest "going back thousands of years." During the 1948 war that created the new state of Israel, Israeli forces drove out hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland and destroyed more than 400 Palestinian villages. In the 1967 war Israel seized the remainder of historic Palestine, imposing a military occupation over the remaining Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Since that time, Jewish settlers have annexed Palestinian land, built armed settlements on it, evicted the original inhabitants and terrorized the local population. In the process, they helped to build the modern, powerful state of Israel, a country with a powerful standing army and nuclear capability as well.

Going into the Camp David negotiations, however, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's well-publicized "red lines" delineated a position very far from the minimum that the Palestinian national consensus could accept as a just resolution of the conflict. Palestinian national demands since the early 1970's have been based on the principle of "land for peace" enshrined in UN Resolution 242 adopted after 1967. The Palestinians pledged to abandon armed struggle against Israel and recognize a Jewish state in its pre-1967 borders (amounting to 78% of their historic homeland of Palestine) in exchange for a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, including East Jerusalem, and an Israeli acknowledgment of responsibility for the Palestinian refugees. Palestinians would create an independent state on this territory, with East Jerusalem as its capital and Israel would live in peace.

By contrast, Barak loudly announced that Israel would not return to its pre-1967 war borders. He sought to annex settlement blocs containing about 80 percent of the 180,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank (excluding Jerusalem) to Israel. Like every Israeli leader since 1967, Barak demanded that the Palestinians accept all of Jerusalem as Israel's "eternal capital." And Barak insisted that Israel would accept no moral or legal responsibility for the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem in 1948. In essence, Barak demanded that the Palestinians give their blessing to Israel's many violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and dozens of UN resolutions since 1967-most notably the confiscation of land for civilian purposes, settling civilians in occupied territories, the unilateral and internationally unrecognized annexation of East Jerusalem and the installation of some 175,000 Jewish settlers there.

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What Barak wanted was for the Palestinian leader Arafat to sign a termination of the Arab-Israeli conflict and in effect to get away without making fundamental changes in the existing status quo. The result would be that Israel can continue to possess 78% of Mandatory Palestine as its own, plus strategic parts of the 22% that remain, maintain a rigid separation between Jews and non-Jews, keep all of Jerusalem, continue to control water, borders, security, and never have to deal with its historical responsibilities as having forcibly displaced an entire people in order to come into existence.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Arafat found it impossible to sign away basic Palestinian rights, implicit in Israeli proposals offered at Camp David, despite the brazen American pressure placed on him to do just that. According to press reports, the Palestinian delegation at the talks was not even given the chance to present its position. Its demands for implementation of UN Resolution 242 and international law were dismissed by the Americans, who instead insisted that the talks be based on "creative ideas" provided by an American bridging paper clearly in line with Israeli demands.

More than anything else, the Camp David Summit was a case-study in the United State's ability to use its political and economic muscle to force a people to sign away their rights. Therefore, it is the ultimate in hypocrisy that in the wake of the collapse of these one-sided negotiations, the Clinton administration launched a public relations offensive designed to portray Palestinian intransigence as the primary obstacle to a final solution to the "Palestinian problem." Consistent with past practice, the mainstream media has largely accepted this assumption, and criticism of the Palestinian position dominates public discourse on this issue.

The truth is that Palestinian "intransigence" amounted to rejecting extremely creative American and Israeli "compromises" in which the illusion of granting Palestinian rights and independence masked the reality of continued Israeli domination.

On the question of Jerusalem, the US "creative" solution started by accepting complete Israeli control of the city and then tried to find ways to allow symbolic Palestinian authority in Jerusalem — or as the city is called in Arabic, Al-Quds. These include Palestinian administration of Arab neighborhoods, some arrangement for Islamic and Christian religious sites, and a Palestinian capital in the village of Abu Dis near Jerusalem, which might be renamed "Al-Quds," with a little sleight-of-hand.

One can see how preposterous this "compromise" is by simply turning it around. Imagine that the US suggested that all of east and west Jerusalem would be returned to the Palestinians. Israel will be given limited control of garbage collection, education and some other limited civil matters in some Jewish neighborhoods, but not those which are too close to areas sensitive to Palestinians. A bridge or tunnel would be built so that Jews can reach the holy Western Wall from their neighborhoods. The Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan will be renamed "Yerushalyim," and Mr. Barak will move his office there. This way Israelis can have the satisfaction of saying that they have a capital in "Yerushalyim," which is the traditional Hebrew name for Jerusalem. Would any Israeli's find it to be a reasonable "compromise"? Neither do the Palestinians.

On the question of land and borders, the US and Israel "creatively" proposed that a Palestinian state would be established on roughly 90% of the West Bank in exchange for allowing Israel to annex the major Israeli settlement blocs and the connecting bypass roads in the West Bank. The reality of this apartheid-like solution would be an eventual Palestinian state consisting of four separate Bantustans completely surrounded by territory and Israeli settlers annexed to Israel. Under this arrangement Israel would maintain effective control over Palestinian political and economic independence through separation and military deployments at bypass roads and border areas. They would have ultimate control over land and water rights. And the Palestinian-administered Bantustans would then provide cheap and easily exploitable labor for the Israeli economy.

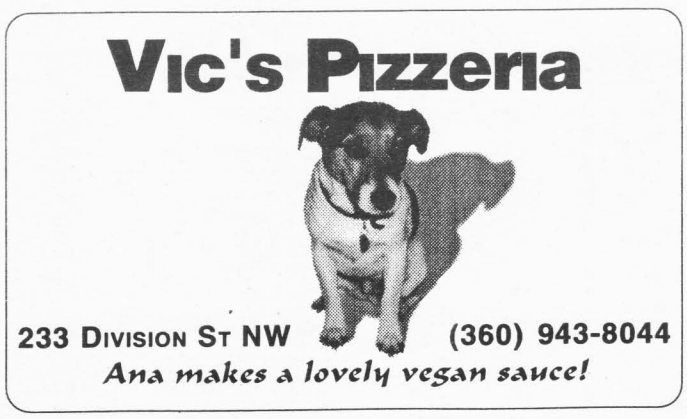
The "creative" American solution to the Palestinian refugee problem also appears calculated to serve Israeli interests while allowing Arafat to claim symbolic victory. Israel would express "regret" (but not responsibility) for their suffering and pledge to absorb "tens of thousands" into Israel under the rubric of family unification. Another 500,000 or so would be allowed to "return" to the new Palestinian state while the rest (about 4 million) would be absorbed into other states paid for by an international fund, to which Israel would contribute some funds. The reality of this solution is the effective abandonment of the Palestinians internationally recognized right to return to their homeland under UN Resolution 194 and ultimately whitewash the historical record of Israeli ethnic cleansing that is the moral basis of the Palestinian claim against Israel.

Writing in the July 27 edition of the Washington Post, Sam Husseini points out that, in sum, "the Palestinians have been offered a "Jerusalem" that is not Jerusalem: the right of return for only a nominal number of the Palestinian refugees; a "state" without control over water, borders or real sovereignty; "territory" that is not contiguous; and symbols of nationhood that would become more signs of shame than of pride to an injured people."

There is no question that Israeli Prime Minister Barak offered more to the Palestinians at Camp David than any previous Israeli Prime Minister had before in public. But this point simply demonstrates how one-sided the "peace process" has been and how successfully Israel was able to transform its grudging and partial withdrawal from an illegal occupation into the appearance of making "concessions" and "giving" land back to the Palestinians.

In remarks following the talks Clinton praised Barak for being so "courageous," but the word in this context has no possible relevance. Having already annexed Jerusalem, expanded its boundaries, flooded the area with new Israeli settlements, Israel doesn't require much courage to express a willingness to give back small portions of land to partial Palestinian sovereignty. As for Israel's much vaunted magnanimity in being willing to challenge long-standing "taboos" about Jerusalem by talking about them, that too is hyperbole. The facts are that Jerusalem is still divided, and that 200,000 Palestinians live there. Without Arab and Islamic backing, Arafat was simply in no position to compromise on East Jerusalem as well as the settlements as well as the right of return, all for nothing more than American approval and am illusory state.

(Continued next page)



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(Camp David, continued)

It seems clear that Camp David II was a cynical and misguided attempt to secure Clinton's place in history as a peacemaker and to give his lackluster vice president (already in trouble with his flagging presidential campaign) a cheap boost in the polls. Clinton's announced expectation that both sides should "comprimise" is a deeply flawed understanding of what can produce a just and stable Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement. Moreover, the notion that Israel and Palestine come to the table as equals is ridiculous. Israel has everything to gain; the Palestinians have nothing left to lose. By applying equal pressure on both sides to reach any kind of compromised agreement, the Americans did not create an environment for real justice, lasting peace, or security for all.

The underlying reality of the situation is that the Israelis are negotiating for peace while the Palestinians are negotiating for their survival. The Palestinians are negotiating from the perspective of a defeated, invaded, oppressed, and brutalized underclass who have lived in apartheid conditions for years, and so have little left to lose. Israelis have, in the same half-century, become relatively wealthy living off of land that once belonged to Palestinians. Those same Palestinians and their children have been the source of cheap labor for the Israelis, whose U.S.-supplied military helped to ensure that the Palestinians had no real economic opportunities and no political power.

Bilateral negotiations between the strongest political, economic and military power in the region and the weakened and corrupt leadership of an occupied people are bound to produce one-sided agreements and even more one-sided implementation of those agreements. This imbalance in negotiating power is exacerbated by the rejection of UN participation in the peace process in favor of active mediation by the US, often through the CIA.

The US is not, as the Clinton Administration claimed, an "honest moderator". The US is not only Israel's staunchest ally and military supporter, but also the only Western country not to extend full diplomatic relations to the PLO. The United States has a long history of extensive diplomatic, economic, and military support for Israel. Israel receives by far more foreign aid assistance from the United States than any other nation, drawing roughly $1.8 billion in military aid and $1.2 billion in economic aid each year. In addition to its direct foreign aid, Israel receives more than one billion dollars a year from other portions of the federal budget. According to the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, "the complete total of U.S. grants and loan guarantees to Israel for fiscal 1997 was $5,525,800,000". Israel also benefits from a system offered to no other US foreign aid recipient: early disbursal. Through this program, the Israeli government receives its total aid package at the beginning of every fiscal year in a single payment. Thus it is able to invest its foreign aid in interest-bearing accounts that allow it to earn millions of dollars before the US-supplied funds are actually needed.

In addition to this financial support, President Clinton has guaranteed US diplomatic support for Israel. Unlike President Carter during the Camp David negotiations between Israel and Egypt in 1978, Clinton did not expect Israel to give up the territory it seized in the 1967 war even though that policy is a clear violation of international law. The Clinton administration has generally supported Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem, which the UN Security Council declared null and void by unanimous vote in 1978. Now the President is threatening to move the US embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, an action sure to infuriate the Palestinians and the Arab nations, and a move that the international community has long opposed.

As a result, seven years after the famous handshake on the White House lawn which launched the current Israeli-Palestinian process, the balance sheet is decidedly skewed in favor of Israel. Palestinian concessions—rejection of armed resistance and full recognition of the state of Israel—were made up front. In contrast, Israel has bestowed its main concession—ending the military occupation and enabling Palestinian self-determination—grudgingly, gradually, and always subject to unilateral Israeli interpretation. While Palestinians today retain few bargaining chips beyond the threat of sporadic violence, Israel continues to occupy Palestinian land and deny Palestinian self-determination.

On each issue in dispute, the Palestinians are supported by international law and human rights covenants. In each case, "compromises" mean denial of the legal and human rights of Palestinians, not of Israelis. Palestinians already made the major concession - recognition in 1993 of Israel (without Israeli acceptance of a Palestinian state) on 78% of their former territory, British Mandatory Palestine. International law calls for the return of all refugees forced from their homes in 1948, along with compensation for them. It calls for Jerusalem to be an international city shared between a Jewish and Palestinian state. It requires Israel to withdraw from all Arab lands occupied in 1967 in return for Arab acceptance of Israel. The Palestinians have done their part. An opportunity to do justice was once again missed. Instead the Palestinians were offered an illusion when true peace will only come as a result of doing the hard work of justice. Only when Israelis make the effort at reconciliation and to correct the historic wrongs done to Palestinians, will there be any hope of achieving justice, peace and security for all, especially for Israel. Israel's moral failure in dealing with historic Palestinian issues, and its unwillingness to admit the injustices inflicted upon them, is a continuing obstacle to all hopes for peace and security in the Middle East. It is unfortunate that both the Clinton administration and American media have unfairly charged the Palestinians with intransigence, placing upon them the responsibility for the collapse of the summit. It is Israel, not the Palestinians, which holds the key to establishing such justice, but Israel has not yet recognized the need for a courageous approach to the Palestinians, an approach based on justice and reconciliation. The American unwillingness to pressure Israel into accepting such an approach makes it equally responsible for the failure of Camp David II.

Steve Niva teaches at The Evergreen State College. ◆

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KAOS at a Crossroads:

Debates About Station Direction Continue at Olympia Community Radio Station

Megan Davis

KAOS is on the verge of a new era. This year marks a doubling in the station's range (up to 140,000 potential listeners) the kick-off of live Internet streaming of KAOS programs; and the replacement of the station's general manager of seventeen years, Micheal Huntsberger. The question of station direction is hot, and among the dynamic KAOS crew, there's a diversity of opinion.

For many community members the KAOS drama appears to be defined by ideological and personal disputes between programmer Austin Kelley and Huntsberger. Their e-mail battles, along with a public argument between Kelley and another programmer, have brought a lot of community attention to KAOS' situation. But they've also left many feeling wary of all sides.

Beyond those dramas lie complex issues which have been smoldering at KAOS for years. Fanned to flames by a recent listener survey, these issues should not be mistaken for a "corporate takeover" approach by management, or simple "fear of change" in programmers. How they are resolved will decide the character of this important local media institution.

WHAT IS KAOS TODAY?

KAOS is owned by and operating under the policies of The Evergreen State College, and has adopted a community station model. KAOS' mission states that it "serves the interests of TESC students and the citizens of Thurston County and the surrounding areas, giving special attention to the interests of people historically ignored by the media...." Its aim is to provide a variety of programming but "an emphasis on information, news and local relevance."

Two policies that define programming in relation to the mission are an 80% independent to 20% corporate music policy, and no more than 14% non-local programming.

But because KAOS' broadcast license is held by the college rather by than the community, law does not require there be community oversight built into its structure. Over the past five years, the toothless Communications Board (KAOS' effort at community oversight) has fizzled out. And there is no organized, effective way for community volunteers to play a significant role in major station decisions, which are made by professional and student managers.

Another thing that affects the way people interact at KAOS, says Huntsberger, is a peculiar sort of generation gap that can be found at many community stations these days. "The most frustrating thing about progressive politics is that sense that you're always on the margins. A lot of what I think is driving community radio now is you have people who are my age and older who are getting to the end of their careers, and they're still feeling like they're on the margins. So there's an urgency... I think that's the kind of motivation that can drive people towards their best work, [or] cause people to run around with blinders on. And then on the other hand you have young people who are looking at what they see as very institutionalized stations... and they're trying to get in and saying, 'It's all run by our parents!'"

No matter what we are told about the future of KAOS, we fear what we are not being told." - Programmer Wiberg

The Audit

This past year KAOS management has undertaken the first phase of a two-part communications audit focused on the public's perception of the station. This was done with the volunteered assistance of marketing consultant (and KAOS member) Richard Brudvik-Lindner, who conducted a series of listener focus groups in winter and then produced an interim report in spring.

On July 14, volunteers received a memo from Huntsberger which stated, "Change is in the air for KAOS." The memo stated the audit's focus group report:

- No participants could describe KAOS' format or focus.
- Participants felt that a public access model serves producers more than listeners.
- Participants felt that KAOS does not regularly fulfill the function of providing current events information, which they felt is essential to a community station.

The memo then presented the issue that KAOS' audience might be shrinking, and described steps management had already taken to begin addressing these problems.

Most volunteers had heard little or nothing of the audit up until then, and many responded with skepticism and concern.. "A lot of problems could have been avoided by more responsible presentation," asserts programmer Shannon Wiberg. "Everybody I've spoken with says that most of the study findings are probably true... We just want some discussion about the solution to the problem BEFORE action is taken." As more detailed information of the audit was made public by management, issues were raised among the programmers: The screening process for focus group participants sought news listeners at the expense of the music-focused. Management would not reveal who the participants were, or demographic information about them. Local indie music wasn't mentioned anywhere in the focus group script. Some audit questions were clearly leading. And why weren't volunteers asked for input during the planning of the audit?

Much of the response has been rooted in a distrust of management's motivations. Wiberg explains, "We have been warned about programming changes for years. But nothing has been defined and suspicion has been allowed to fester.... No matter what we are told about the future of KAOS, we fear what we are not being told." Programmer Jenny Jenkins agrees: "Some of these problems that are coming out now, and that have been coming out for a while, wouldn't be there if there was a little more openness and democracy at the station."

Meanwhile, tensions rose between Kelley and Huntsberger. Their relationship had already soured to the point of requiring mediation last winter, after countless skirmishes over Kelley's choice to focus his world music program on in-depth coverage of the Pacifica/KPFU debacle in Berkeley last summer. The audit report renewed arguments between the two until they reached a climactic blow-out on July 17, during which both parties interrupted radio service. Huntsberger then suspended Kelley and one week later he himself resigned, with the plan to leave his position at the end of August. This chain of events heightened tensions in the KAOS crew.

Despite tensions, some all-station dialogue has begun to occur. Following are some of the major topics of discussion:

Block (Strip) scheduling

KAOS currently uses minimal block programming to structure its schedule: basically, no hip-hop, experimental, or punk music programs except between 9 pm and 6 am, although this is more of a guideline than a strict rule. Some would like to see a stricter, more detailed block schedule than KAOS has now. The idea here is to increase consistency so viewers will come to expect a certain sound at different times of day (say, news during the "evening drive" time, world music in the early afternoon).

Block programming is more predictable to listeners, so they might be more likely to make KAOS a regular part of their schedule. Huntsberger says that increased consistency is a necessary component to creating a station that more people can identify with as part of a listening community. "For a long time we said, 'We'll just change the way people listen. We'll educate people to listen to our station.' But in twenty years of being in community radio I've never seen it happen." He thinks block programming is a way the station can change to meet listener expectations, instead of trying to change listeners.

But block scheduling is restrictive. This means that some popular programmers will be shut out because of conflicts between station and personal schedules, and any categories that are popular among potential programmers will be bursting at the seams of their timeslots. And while block scheduling may be a step towards the audience, it is also a step in the direction of commercial stations, which makes a lot of people uneasy. Many see block scheduling as a blow to one of the station's main attributes, program diversity and creativity. Programs will have less leeway for spontaneity and creative variation, and some will never even be scheduled because they couldn't fit into a prescribed category. "I think KAOS should be trumpeting its strengths, instead of apologizing for its eclectivism," states programmer Diana Arens.

"Professionalism"

The idea is to help programmers perform to their highest ability in the areas of technical skills and craftsmanship. All sides state disinterest in creating a more slick sound, but everyone agrees there's room for skills improvement. Huntsberger takes it a step further. "If we're going to be really credible as an alternative radio station, I think we have to be prepared to perform to the same kinds of standards as every other station on the dial.

Possible methods of improvement are: Regular management-organized workshops; regular programmer-to-programmer evaluations and skills-sharing; fostering an atmosphere that encourages self-improvement of programmers by studying their own shows and others', and in extreme cases, possibly resorting to punitive measures.

Promotion

"Promotion has always been the weakest thing that KAOS does," says Huntsberger. This could be changed by a strong focus on station promotion by future development directors and other managers, including the area of sponsoring, promoting, and creating a presence at community events. The point is to spread word of KAOS to a broader population as well as to bring KAOS into a more active involvement in the larger community, which would be good for both its reputation and its heart as a community station. On campus, station promotion could take the form of student outreach: posters, concerts, welcoming activities to new students. Another promotional element could be the creation of a catchy tagline (for example: "KAOS: Your Alternative Adventure!")

Local Indie Music

Another major area of discussion is KAOS' level of commitment to local, independent music. In recent years, the station's participation in local independent music events has decreased. This withdrawal is felt by many programmers. "In terms of station outreach, KAOS has been riding on its reputation for too long," states Wiberg. "KAOS has distanced itself from the indie rock scene it helped to create."

Indie music producers are left out of the game at commercial stations. "The same companies that own the record

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If you want to get involved

Some programmers have expressed a desire to open up the audit process to community involvement in planning. If management refuses, programmers may conduct an independent audit with different methodology. If you would like to give input in the audit process, contact KAOS at 866-6000.

TESC Director of Student Activities Tom Mercado is beginning the process of forming a committee to select the next permanent general manager, to be hired by winter. The committee will be made up of at least one community member and two students. Anyone interested can contact Tom Mercado, 866-6000, ext. 6220.

Kelley is working to get his show back. Citing a documented hostile work environment and violations of his freedom of speech, he states that his suspension was illegal. He can be contacted at Media Island 352-8526.

For information on volunteer programmer discussion meetings, and KAOS community discussion meetings contact <imani@olywa.net>

(KAOS, continued)

labels also own the radio stations. They also own the magazines and the newspapers," explains programmer Diana Arens. "So if there's an outlet for independent music, we can't let it go. Not without a fight." Indie music is an important (and world-renowned) piece of Olympia culture, which many believe benefits the wider community by providing a more fresh, diverse and interesting range of music.

Other Issues

Here are some examples of the many other issues that have come up. Several volunteers would like the KAOS web page improved. Gary Galbreath, who programs native shows, would like to see management prepare in advance for harrassment from the public that may occur after the antenna move, in response to controversial programming. Wiberg would like to see increased cross-promotion among programmers (promoting and responding to one another's shows).

Shaping the Future of KAOS

The question of what changes will happen at KAOS seems to center on who will be making the changes. How can the contradiction of being both a college and a community station be resolved? Some believe that community members have a right to take part in station decision-making. "KAOS calls itself community radio when it's pledge drive time," says Kelley. "I hope that all the time the community will have a place at the table."

But others disagree, stating that KAOS is a college station whose job is to serve the community however it sees fit. Programmer John Ford says, "I understand the proprietary feeling one gets at a place like KAOS; it's a powerful driving feeling that can bring out one's best. When it obscures the reality that one doesn't really own the station, it's a handicap." Until this issue is resolved, conflicts will continue.

Huntsberger is moving on to new things. In his time at KAOS he has brought radical improvements in technical equipment, financial ability, and signal strength. But after seventeen years of the same job, he likens this recent blowout to a final bee-bee placed on a pile of bee-bees, that sent them all rolling. He was not asked to leave, he states. He was simply ready to move on.

On the brink of a new era, the station's character has yet to be re-formed. Judging from the jam-packed, energetic meetings and thoughtful discussions about KAOS' future, it's obvious that managers and volunteers alike are going about the job proactively. They carry a heavy burden of responsibility. Non-profit community media outlets like KAOS offer people relief from the twin messages of consumerism, "Conform!" and "Buy!" Their presence disrupts the commercial media landscape, making a space where intellectual and creative liberty are encouraged, and everyone is allowed access. And they enrich people's lives by providing information, views and music that cannot be found anywhere else on the dial. After the dust settles and the growing pains subside, KAOS' new direction will affect and be reflected by the local community, and have ripple effects throughout the area. So it's no surprise that the community's tuned in to the chaos at KAOS.

Next month:
The 28-year history of KAOS ◆

Some Thoughts on the Commercialization Crossroads

Paul Pearson

As I'm writing this, the battle involving KAOS Community Radio has, at least temporarily, diminished into a brief skirmish. Michael Huntsberger has resigned as station manager, and the Austin Kelly incident is being handled away from the public eye, in a more institutionalized, judicial forum. Which is just as well, really, since personalizing the conflict in the forms of Michael and Austin is unfair to both parties.

One reason that we shouldn't be crystallizing our heroes and villains in this conflict is because it's happened time and again, in other, larger cities, in a much more volatile and demonstrative fashion that I don't see KAOS or Olympia duplicating, for various reasons. Another reason is that, having interned for Michael in the mid-90's, I know he's a lot more reasonable than recent events suggest.

The main reason personalizing targets is futile, though, is because the larger picture is so much more important. Public radio station managers and program directors have been having - or "staging," in my opinion - an identity crisis for nearly 15 years. They will tell you this crisis concerns the decline of public radio's listeners, which sprung questions about what "community radio" really means. Who is our community? What do they want? How do we impart it?

They're all great questions. All public radio volunteers should ask themselves these questions all the time. But I don't buy that all public radio station managers are putting these questions first (although I believe KAOS truly does — though I don't always like some of the answers). When issued from management, these questions are more often public smokescreens for what public radio stations really crave: power, growth, and money. Just like the commercial stations - wow, what a coincidence...

The Audience-Building Task Force Report

One can trace the beginnings of this strategy to 1986, when National Public Radio commissioned what proved to be a watershed document in public radio's history, The Audience-Building Task Force Report. This manuscript's dogma influenced station managers and program directors by the score for years to follow. Its goal was to double public radio's audience within four years from its publication. The Report strongly advised "professionalizing" public radio's sound by centralizing program and playlist decisions to a single Program Director. It also criticized letting on-air programmers decide the material they'd play on their shows, since doing so would create a mosaic format that ran squarely in the face of "professionalism." The adoption of a single format for each radio station was not discouraged, since the most popular commercial stations focused on a single, limited genre, such as jazz, classical, or talk.

The streamlining mantra of the NPR report had various effects on its affiliates. Some stations believed the best route was to hire professional-sounding DJ's with resumés loaded with experience at commercial stations, and to give them daily slots in the morning and afternoon drive times. In stations with 2-hour volunteer blocks like KAOS, this would mean replacing up to 20 unpaid volunteers, with a passion for their material, with just two, with a passion for profession, at least.

The proliferation of satellite material for public stations gave them another inroad to professionalism. News programs like All Things Considered and music programs such as World Café were produced in one studio, by one staff, for dissemination through several outposts across the country. This cut further into local productions and voices - which was fine for the managers, too, since a radio station that was too provincial in its sound and programming, theoretically, could drive away listeners too alienated by the sound. "Familiarity creates tune-in" became a hymn for non-comm station managers (apparently oblivious to the far more famous motto, "Familiarity breeds contempt").

We have four full months to solidify KAOS's fiercely independent, undiluted agenda, and its commitment to the local community,

With the institution of these changes, the de-frilling and compression of some of pub-radio's farthest edges, sure enough a target demographic for these stations began to emerge. And like all other target audiences in commercial media, this target member was a white male, aged 25-50. Unlike the target white male for, say, Monday Night Football, public radio's target white male was upwardly mobile, urban professional, and college-educated - with more disposable income for fringe expenses like donations to their favorite non-commercial station's fundraiser.

When Protesters Attack

In most major metropolitan areas, the changes to more centralized pub-radio control went off without a hitch. Philadelphia's WXPN, creators of World Café, met with tremendous success with a safe adult-acoustic format, and parceled both their show and their scheme to other public stations via annual conventions and publicity. Their suggestion on how station managers should deal with angry, displaced volunteers was interesting - "Take the heat." In other words, just sit back and let them deluge you with insults and outbursts, be a tacit martyr. By acknowledging their point without fighting back at them, you'll wear them out, the new format will prevail, and the cash will roll in. Protestors eventually get tired of railing against institutionalized management, and will join the profit-making program after awhile - just look at the boomers! Markets with lots of public radio options, such as Los Angeles, had such an array of choices that virtually any public station was bound to nurture a loyal audience. In L.A., KCRW commands the self-congratulatory Starbucks liberal who wishes REM would just settle on one sound. College-run KXLU - which plays a lot of Olympia-based artists - attracts the indie underground. Finally KPCC's all-talk format (which just replaced blues and jazz) covers the info-junkie's talk-radio and news needs. But when volunteers are told to either shape up or ship out of the new professional scheme, those who resist or even speak out against format smoothing are often excused without a second thought by management. In two very high-profile cases - one of which I was closely involved with - the displaced volunteers were able to organize public protests that drew national attention to the conflict, and caused embarrassment for left-wing voicers who found the center more comfy and profitable.

In 1992, Seattle's KCMU attempted to institute most of the changes mentioned above, along with bringing World Café on board. Of the station's 50-60 volunteers who attended the staff meeting announcing these changes, not a single one spoke in favor of them. Those who were more vocal against the changes were summarily fired by Station Manager Chris Knab; these firings spurred the formation of Censorship Undermines Radio Station Ethics (CURSE), comprised of both KCMU volunteers and listeners. I was named secretary of the group and co-editor of their monthly newsletter CURSEword. Our operation was partially successful; through an intense publicity campaign we were able to rally public opinion against KCMU, cripple their two following fundraisers by 50% of their normal intake, and get a judicial ruling in favor of most of the fired volunteers. Knab resigned not too long after our incorporation, leaving the station management duties to Don Yates. I heard KCMU a month ago and it sounded great. But what CURSE did absolutely evaporates in comparison to what embittered listeners and volunteers for the Pacifica Network did in 1999, at the network's flagship station of KPFA in Berkeley. After years as a bastion for liberal thought and alternative programming ("Pacifica" in fact sprung from the term "pacifist"), the management of Pacifica, perhaps informed by the NPR report, started pushing for a more professionalist presentation. The orchestration of this new arrangement was, again, organized with the financial incentive associated with the white, upper-middle-class male with money. Several years of trying to get these changes past devoted volunteers saw lots of contro-

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(Radio, continued)

versial steps and mandates issued by Pacifica chairpeople Pat Scott and Lynne Chadwick. Employees who opposed the plan were fired. Programmers who spoke about the changes on the air were fired. News stories and opinions critical of Pacific were censored, both at the network itself and its local affiliates. Pacifica tried to break up a union of volunteers by hiring a union-busting consultant group, and its tactics were regularly called into question by judicial rulings that nearly always fell in the volunteers' favor. Of course, Pacifica appealed all of them. After years of this frustration and mounting information, in August 1999 a near-riot situation occurred at KPFA as up to two thousand listeners stormed the streets surrounding the station. At one point Pacifica managers had to barricade themselves inside the station for safety and 14 protestors were arrested by police. In Los Angeles, where I was living at the time, these events made the front page of the Times and brought angry inquiries to the local Pacifica affiliate, Burbank's KPFK. I remember reading the article and chuckling to myself - if this had happened with CURSE, Lord knows how KCMU would sound today. (As it stands, post-CURSE, it's not that bad.) The result of the Berkeley incidents could unfortunately only be expressed intangibly. Despite becoming nearly as hated as National Public Radio, Pacifica's goals have not been publicly changed. Longtime Pacific anchor Verna Avery Brown resigned in sympathy with the protestors, and Pacifica's once-noble image may have been permanently shattered. But there are two things in Pacifica's favor which, if not checked, might push their program forward successfully: the short memory of listeners who could forget about the ethical missteps Pacifica made in the late '90s, and the historical disorganization of groups who've tried to oppose public radio management in the past - CURSE included. That's exactly where KAOS listeners and readers of *Works In Progress* need to pay the closest attention.

Will It Happen in Olympia?

Personally - given a few important safeguards listeners and volunteers must heed - I don't think so.

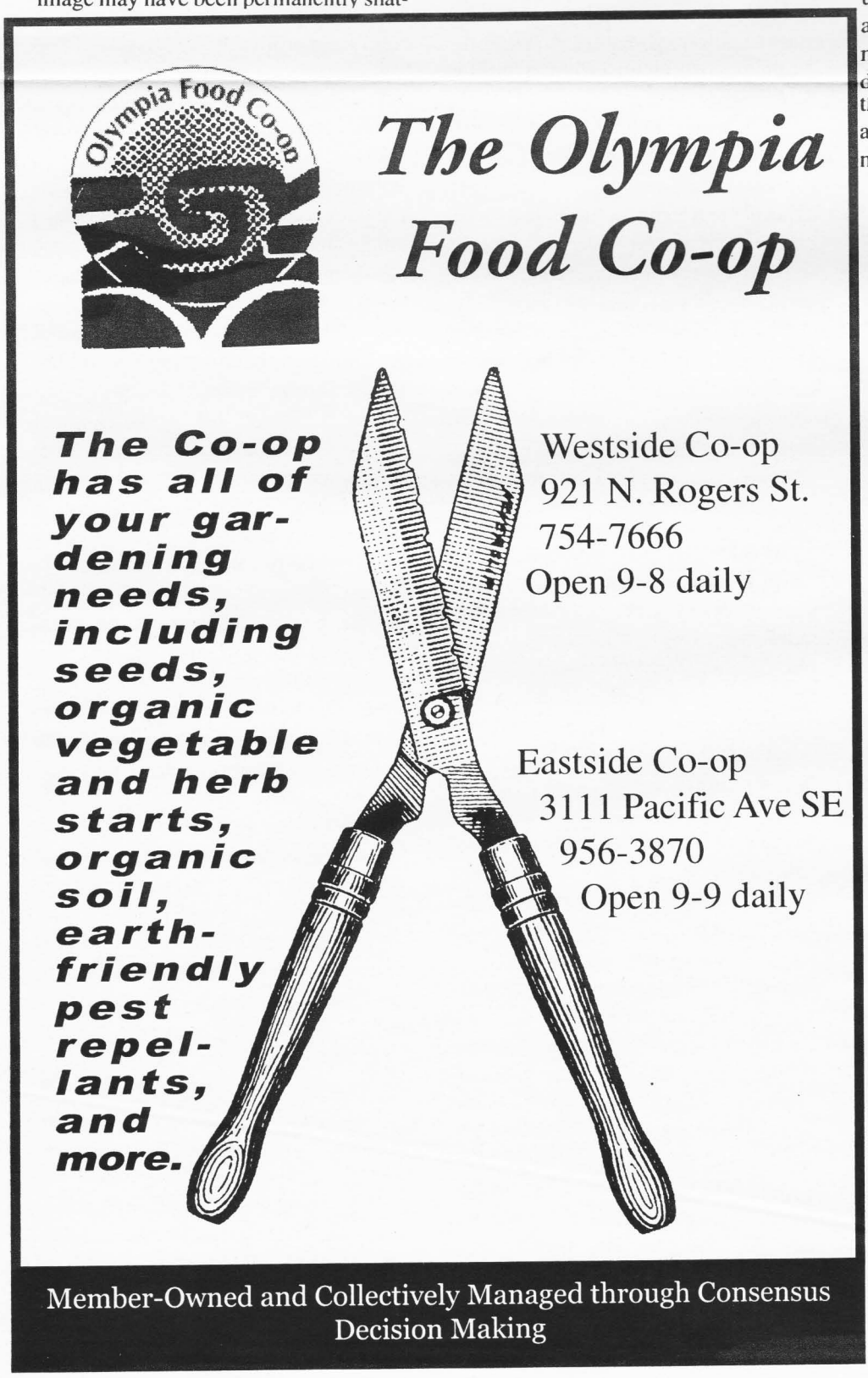
For one thing, Olympia's a small market, not even in the Top 200 nationally. The philosophies outlined above tend to come from station managers who see New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and the Bay Area as tons of bodies waiting to be conquered. As melting pots, medium-to-large urban areas have more to offer in sheer number alone, and the distillation of public radio's fringe elements is more effective with such wide cross-sections. This "lowest common denominator" radio only really works with sizable populations. Small markets like Olympia don't see provincialism or specificity of styles as a threat; instead they value it as a characteristic.

And Olympia's characteristic is more unique than most cities under 100,000 people. Like Chapel Hill, NC and Athens, GA, Olympia's local character revolves so tightly around its art and cultural scene, that for KAOS to distance itself from it, like it was composed of impish little brats, would be a foolish slap in the face to the community itself. In addition, Olympia's national profile - heck, its international profile - is getting a lot more attention lately, unwanted or otherwise. What's amazing is that even the area's civic leaders seem compelled to pay some form of tribute to it, sincerely or not. There aren't many towns where an event like Ladyfest could get, not just a mention from the local major newspaper, but a daily series of articles about it during its run. That's one of the major reasons I hightailed it back here from Los Angeles, after being away five years.

So the listener and volunteer staff at KAOS has all this in its favor, but it won't do anything without attention to a couple of special areas. First of all, KAOS doesn't have a lot of listeners at this point. Huntsberger recently quoted KAOS's total Olympia listenership as less than 1% of the population. In the now-infamous focus group conducted by KAOS over the summer, they couldn't even find present subscribers who listened to 89.3 (which, in my opinion, invalidates the focus group, but sequels have been promised - or threatened, depending on your stance). I suggest anybody who reads this paper start listening to KAOS and getting reacquainted. For one thing, it's still a great station. They do run Pacifica, for lack of a better news source, but they also have the good sense to run the gleefully anti-Pacifica Free Speech News on Fridays, immediately after it. But for anyone to understand the potential beauty of mosaic radio, you've got to start hearing it. And stick around. Learn more about it. I also encourage recent sentiment among KAOS volunteers towards forming a union. For one thing, it's perfectly valid - a judge ruled so in the Pacifica case, when management tried to get such a union discredited. But more importantly than that, KAOS's volunteers need to develop a promotional plan that focuses on community outreach - on their own. You don't have to wait for a directive to promote your own show, to speak positively about the station. In fact, you might never get it, and if you do, it will reflect a very centralized plan that could encourage the condensation of KAOS's multi-faceted and very vital programming. Take the ball and run with it.

One extremely important note, though, concerns Michael Huntsberger's pending replacement as station manager. Despite his present negative image among most readers of this paper and those familiar with the Kelly incident, the fact remains that over 20 years at KAOS he did listen to volunteers and their concerns much more readily than most other station managers did. Some people couldn't stand him. Other people disagreed with some of his theories on improving public radio, but still liked and trusted him. I'm one of those. But his replacement is an unknown entity, and that's always dangerous. Since the hiring process will be open to people outside the Olympia area, it's almost inevitable that the new station manager will be familiar with the numerically-obsessed 1986 NPR report. It's entirely possible - I'm of the opinion that it's probable - that Michael's committee-named replacement will be a slave to corporate principles of growth-mania, will dispose of the mandate from Olympia's most important elements, and will have a devotion to statistics that might border on the orgasmic. You don't have to allow this to happen. Monitor the hiring process closely. Watch it carefully. Make your opinions heard to all responsible for the hiring process at Evergreen and KAOS. The new station manager could be in place as early as January, which means we have four full months to solidify KAOS's fiercely independent, undiluted agenda, and its commitment to the local community, heedless of demographics and target audiences.

And keep listening to KAOS 89.3 FM. Often. ◆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Beyond Boundaries: What a Vote For Ralph Nader Means

Paul Ortiz

I decided to vote for Ralph Nader for president during the recent anti-International Monetary Fund (IMF) demonstrations in Washington, D.C. Mr. Nader was there at the D.C. protest on the speaker's podium, talking to the people in his patented, monotone voice. Thousands of activists, anxious to get the march going listened with varying degrees of patience as Nader mixed a wrong metaphor or two and aimed his slingshot at corporate America. Once the march got underway, just about everyone had forgotten about Ralph and moved on to the important task of the day: democratically seizing control of the streets of Washington, D.C., for a few hours, at least.

After the march and during the five-hour drive back to Durham, North Carolina, not a single person I talked to mentioned Ralph Nader's speech. All conversations hinged on the enormous numbers of folks who came out to demonstrate against the IMF, the World Bank, and the corporate strangulation of the earth. The speaker that aroused the most attention was Oscar Olivera, the remarkable trade unionist from Bolivia. Olivera reported how the peasants and workers of Bolivia had shut down the country in a great general strike to protest the sale of the country's water supply to outside investors.

Brother Olivera's speech was a welcome corrective to the Bolivian government's earlier claim (dutifully repeated by CNN) that "cocaine traffickers" had caused the unrest in Bolivia. In contrast, Olivera explained how this mass struggle against greed had spread from Cochabama, over 300 miles to the east of La Paz, to the doorsteps of the Bolivian capitol. The movement was so successful that the "outside investors" who were greedily licking their chops at the prospect of hiking up the water rates in Bolivia, pulled out. No victory of this magnitude comes without costs, however. Olivera was forced to flee the country (thus his presence at A16), several strikers were killed, and the Bolivian government has been moving to suppress popular action.

This brings up the question: what do the Bolivians know that Americans don't know? What gives them the wherewithal to organize a massive general strike against the powers that Americans surrendered to eons ago? If Bill Clinton sold America's water supply to Monsanto, would there be a protest? Would his apologists say, wisely, "Well, it could be worse, the Republicans wanted to sell it to ADM, etc., etc."

Who else has it together these days? An article in the July, 2000 *Labor Notes* reads like a primer on what much of the world is doing about so-called globalization: On May 11, twenty million Indian workers waged a general strike in their country. One strike leader stated, "The strike was aimed against the surrender of the country's economic sovereignty before the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund." The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions called a national strike on May 31 against IMF "reforms." (By the way, in South Korea, when somebody is messed over, the popular thing to say is, "wow, he was really "IMF'd."

Meanwhile, four million workers went out on strike in South Africa against the national downsizing of the work force suggested by those geniuses at—you guessed it—the IMF. Two general strikes in Argentina this year, largely in protest against austerity programs and cuts in the social sector by—guess who? The IMF's plan to raise oil prices in Nigeria, resulted in a massive general strike by workers and students that brought Bill Clinton's treasury secretary, Lawrence Summers to the country in an attempt to extinguish the flames of democracy.

What does this all have to do with Ralph Nader and the upcoming presidential elections, you ask? First off, Al Gore, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush were not at the anti-IMF protests in D.C. because all three of those august gentlemen support the general thrust of IMF policies. They support these policies because they are good for corporations that suck the life blood from "underdeveloped" countries in a manner not so different from that practiced by the colonial powers of yesteryear. These firms then take a tiny amount of this lifeblood and distribute a pittance of it to the two political parties.

These corporations now control American politics, and everyone knows it. This explains the central malaise of American politics. Patti Smith rocked Raleigh, NC a few nights ago with the song, "People Have the Power." Tragically, few people outside of the small audience at the Ritz believe Smith's message. Most folks are too scared, too cynical, or too busy to do anything about the hijacking of U.S. politics. After all, most of us work or live in the shadow of a great corporation, be it an oil company, a university, or a military base. We have learned over the decades that the price of dissent is ostracism, marginality, or unemployment. Citizenship and justice? Too expensive, too hard to create with our neighbors. It's much easier to vote for somebody with more money than us who promises to "do something about it." It is this habit of dependency that we must break if we want to achieve social justice anywhere on earth.

On the national level, the Democrat Party has reached the end of the line. To put it lightly, Gore is implicated in campaign finance scandal. The only way for the Democrats to save him is to "come clean" and fight an all-out populist war against corporate dominance of American politics. They would begin this by constantly pointing out where George W. Bush is coming from and what he represents.

Bush represents the worst in American politics. His entire life has been organized around one principle: nepotism. One scam after another, all shielded by his father's rich friends. Colin Powell disgraced himself by speaking on behalf of Bush at the GOP.'s convention. I believe that Powell sincerely wanted an equal chance for poor children in America. That is all gone now. George W. Bush's entire life has been an assault against the moderate ideal of equality of opportunity for America's children. The Dick Cheney's who control Bush's world hate Head Start and educational equality of any kind. They have systematically destroyed America's public school system, and now they want to institute tests to deliver the coup de grace. Read Jonathan Kozol's "Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools" if you want insights into how this happened.

It's much easier to vote for somebody with more money than us who promises to "do something about it." It is this habit of dependency that we must break if we want to achieve social justice anywhere on earth.

To see Powell lower himself for a shot at a cabinet position is to witness the continuing decline of a man who could have perhaps resurrected the liberal Republican tradition.

The Democrats could erase Bush from the political landscape with three well-designed ads with the assistance of Molly Ivins. It is that simple. This the Democrats will not do. They are just as implicated in the system of corruption as "Dubya," and most of the national leaders have no desire to change the system. My belief is that the DNC is now going to quietly cut Gore loose the way that the Republicans did with George Sr. in 1992. That is, they will vocally support and cheer him at the Democratic Convention, but they are going to start diverting a lot of "campaign war chest" money elsewhere.

When I think of Al Gore, Jr., I think of the man who once bragged before an audience of fat cats that he had eliminated the jobs of one hundred thousand public employees. For these reasons, I believe that a vote for Gore is a vote for cynicism and decay. On the other hand, I know of many Democrats on the local level who actually want to represent their constituents. I think of great Democrats like Mel Watt, Ron Dellums, and Maxine Waters. These are politicians who pursue democratic styles of governance. They listen to their constituents and act on their concerns. Why the disjuncture between local and national Democratic politics? Corporate domination.

Ralph Nader's campaign is very educational. He is proving that a terrible public speaker (let's be honest here) can garner support by the power of intelligent ideas. This is the first step to something very important, but only the first step. C.L.R. James pointed out in 1962 that West Indian politics were dominated by the question of personality. Which leader had the most charisma? The most ethics? The most character? James argued that West Indians had to go beyond this stage or they were doomed to fall prey to a line of charismatic dictators. Politicians either subordinate themselves to the instructions of the people or the polity slides into fascism. There is no alternative. Well, American politics today is about in the place where West Indian politics was in 1962. We allow ourselves to be chumped by personalities.

Not the vanguard party, not the photogenic leader, not the candidate who has the nicest mom or pop. We have cheated ourselves too long by supporting charismatic speakers who are fronting for corporate America. This time, don't vote for charisma, don't vote for the lesser of two evils (the only voting strategy that many of us have ever known).

A word here about race, gender and class. The Republicans tried to convince Americans who watch television that they have remade themselves into the party of the working-class, person of color who happens to be female. Don't believe the hype. The GOP's own publicity folks admitted on national television that this phony embrace the minority posturing was done to appeal not to African Americans or Latinos, but to "soccer moms in the suburbs." The fact is that people of color were far better represented outside of the convention hall in Philadelphia where they were protesting against the GOP's policies, than they were inside. The GOP does not

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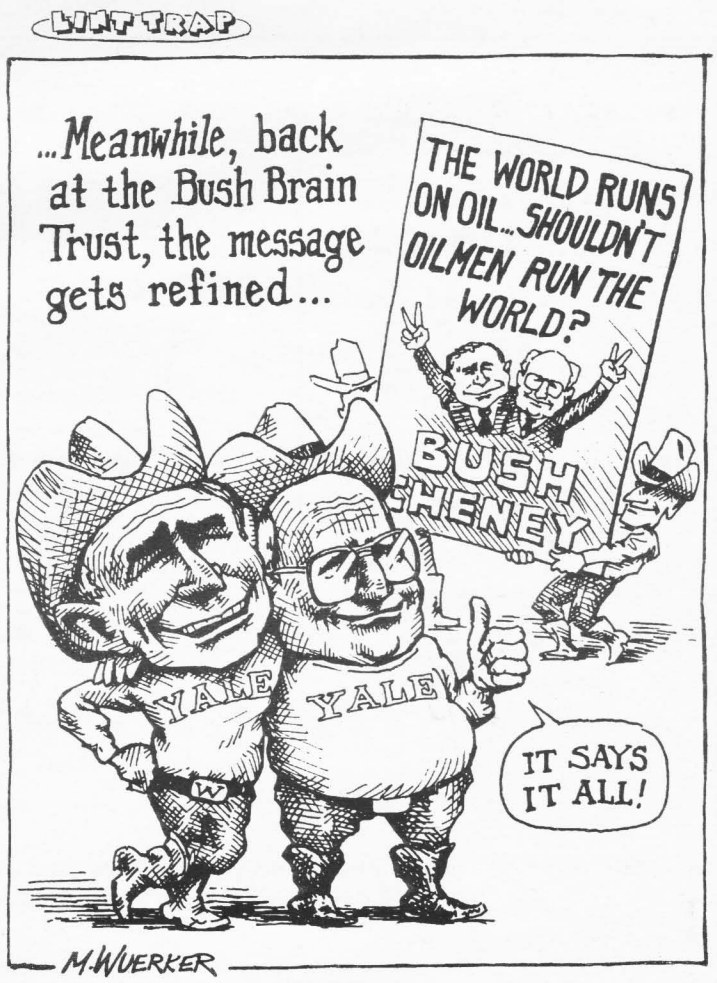

(Nader, continued)

want African Americans in large numbers (tokenism is another matter altogether) to join the party for the simple reason that most African Americans support the ideals of liberty, justice and equality. These are ideals that the Republican Party has stomped on and betrayed since the era in which they cooperated in the destruction of African American and working class voting in the late nineteenth century.

A word about the Reform Party. Ross Perot has utterly debased the idea of citizenship by comparing citizens to stockholders. A stockholder is a parasite and a drag on the economy. He or she thinks in the short term, transferring loyalty to the company that destroys the most jobs or wipes out smaller firms. The result is a generation of workers ("be their wages high or low") more alienated than anything ever seen in human history.

Perot's "Ross for Boss" campaign was well-named. "Ye shall know them by their works." Fascism once again.

In supporting Nader, Michael Moore has said it best: "Come November 7, I plan to enter the voting booth and vote not from fear, but from a desire to see this country returned to the people." Neither Gore nor Bush will do this. Ralph Nader has no choice but to do so if he wants to win.

Paul Ortiz is Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Duke University. Beyond Boundaries is named in honor of the West Indian philosopher, C.L.R. James. To receive more information on "Beyond Boundaries," send an email to ufw@duke.edu ◆

Lori Berenson: The Time is Now

Steve Hillmer

During Olympia's recent Ladyfest celebration, a group of more than 20 people gathered downtown to hear about one woman whose voice has been silenced—Lori Berenson, a young American journalist who has been wrongfully imprisoned in a Peruvian jail for more than four years.

The event, held downtown Aug. 2 at the Praxis meeting space, was the first stop on a Northwest tour for two members of the Washington, D.C.-based Committee to Free Lori Berenson, the first project of the Committee for Inter-American Human Rights.

Speaking at the event were Gail Taylor, national organizer of the Free Lori committee, and Kristen Gardner, a friend of Berenson who roomed with her when the two were studying at the Massachussetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass.

Between the two of them, Taylor and Gardner gave a thorough account of the political situation in Peru that led to Berenson's imprisonment and of Berenson herself, whose compassion for others has led to her dire situation.

Berenson, now 30, was in Peru on assignment for two U.S. publications when she was taken off a bus by police in the Peruvian capital of Lima on Nov. 30, 1995. Accused of aiding an outlawed leftist guerrilla group known by its initials, MRTA, Berenson was convicted of treason by a secret military tribunal on Jan. 11, 1996, and sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole.

According to Taylor, Gardner and organizations including the U.S. State Department, the Organization of American States and Amnesty International, Berenson and her lawyer were not allowed to cross-examine witnesses or call any of their own. And although Berenson had spoken out against poverty and human rights abuses by the Peruvian government, she has steadfastly denied any involvement with terrorist organizations.

The OAS and the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights determined in 1998 that Berenson was being held arbitrarily, and Amnesty International declared her a political prisoner the same year.

"There is no evidence to show she was a leader of the MRTA," Gardner said. However, "she was in opposition to the government, so she knew this was a politically motivated arrest."

The circumstances of Berenson's imprisonment are abominable. She lives in a 6-by-10-foot concrete cell and sleeps on a mattress on a concrete bed. There is no heat or running water. Neither are there windows or mirrors. A hole in the floor serves as a toilet.

Although she is no longer in solitary confinement, in which she was kept for four months, she is allowed out of her cell only two hours a day. And despite monthly visits from family members, Berenson's inadequate diet has led to health problems, including arthritis and poor blood circulation.

Lori Berenson

"I've really gotten more and more concerned about her psychologically. The tone of her letters has changed. It's becoming much more urgent." Kristen Gardner, Berenson's college roommate

"I've really gotten more and more concerned about her psychologically," said Gardner, who managed to visit Berenson in March 1999. "The tone of her letters has changed. It's becoming much more urgent."

Diplomatic efforts have been made to secure Berenson's release, but a Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, a near dictator who won election to a third term earlier this year in a disputed election, has remained intransigent.

Congressional action has included a June 1999 letter to President Clinton in which 176 members of Congress urged Clinton to act under Title 22 U.S.C. Section 1732, which directs the president to take all necessary steps, short of going to war, to secure the release of an incarcerated American citizen "if it appears to be wrongful."

In addition, 33 senators sent a letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in April 1999 asking her to secure Berenson's release.

A Congressional amendment that would have placed withholding of aid to Peru as a means of freeing Berenson under consideration failed in July 1999 with just over 44 percent of the vote.

The Free Lori committee, formed in October 1999, is embarked on a letter campaign to Clinton, asking him to fulfill his obligations under the law and secure Berenson's release. The committee is also working to establish local groups to educate people about Berenson and the situation in Peru.

After the meeting at Praxis, several people spoke of their concern for Berenson.

"I really feel connected to her," said Olympia resident Amy Stock, who visited Chiapas, Mexico, in 1996. "I know what it's like to do social-justice type work. I really feel connected to her. I'm so inspired by her courage and strength ... by her commitment and what that commitment has meant for her in prison."

Eido Frances Carney, a priest with the Olympia Zen Center, says she feels for Berenson's parents as well as Berenson herself. When she heard of Berenson's arrest, she didn't sleep for two weeks, she said.

"There are times when I feel discouraged, but I continue to imagine her free and at home in the arms of her parents," she said.

People interested in forming a local group to help secure Berenson's release may contact Works in Progress at <wip@olywa.net> For more information on Lori Berenson, visit the Free Lori web site at <www.freelori.org> ◆

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These are *the* authentic posters previously printed in the pages of *Works In Progress.*

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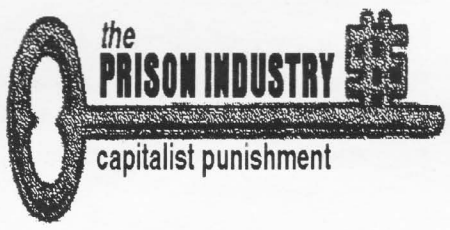
Only as Free as the Padlocked Prison Door

Ron Jacobs

The folks arrested in the past month in the streets of Philadelphia and Los Angeles are political prisoners. They were (and are) in those cities' jails because they were expressing their political beliefs. There is a very real likelihood that some of them will face serious felony charges and there is the further likelihood that a few will face some kind of federal charges concerning intent to riot when it is all over. Already, exorbitant bails have been levied against various organizers and Police Chief Timoney of Philadelphia Police Department has called for a federal investigation of those "behind the protests" while Congressional representatives consider holding hearings investigating this exercise of our civil rights. If one recalls what happened in 1968, although it was the Democratic convention that was disrupted by the infamous Chicago police riots, the Nixon Justice department conducted the prosecution of the Chicago 8 conspiracy. Although I still believe that a federal prosecution on these types of charges are more likely under a Bush regime, they could also occur should Gore win the election in November.

Prisoners who either have been released or been able to reach the independent media from jail tell of beatings in the jails, denial of food, water, and medicine, and the denial of legal counsel to those arrested. This is but a prelude to what lies ahead. The police are but the most obvious participants in the system of oppression in this country. Beatings of prisoners happen all the time in our nation's jails. Indeed, in the communities of color in our nation, men and women are beaten by police even before they are in jail and often without even going there. And, as we all know, more than a few are killed without any type of due process even considered. None of these comments are meant to diminish the brutality of the police in Philadelphia this week nor should they be construed to diminish the experiences of those sisters and brothers currently being held under less than humane conditions in the jail of that city.

If we are to learn from the experiences of the past--recent and historically--we must ensure that the movement does not become a movement that spends all its energy getting people out of prison. Nor must it become one that forgets those who are in prison. The work around Mumia Abu Jamal and other political prisoners has been instructive in this matter in that Mumia, Black Panther Geronimo ji Jaga Pratt, and others are insistent in relating their situation to the greater struggle for social justice. If (or perhaps when) the trials of those arrested in Philadelphia begin and especially if serious charges are brought against those the government deems the movement's leaders (as they did in 1969 after Chicago), it is up to us to link any struggle for their freedom to the greater struggle in the world against global capitalism, racism and militarism.



In short, we must turn the tables on the prosecution and put the system they represent on trial.

After the protests against the WTO in Seattle there were those in the movement who attempted to separate themselves from that action's more militant protestors--the so-called anarchists. This was, plain and simply, doing the work of the state. We should not allow this dynamic to occur, even if we have sincere problems with the tactics of certain groups within our amorphous coalition. When this dynamic exists, the state and its law enforcement apparatus has no qualms about exacerbating those differences, which often leads to our more militant sisters and brothers going it alone if they are arrested. One very recent example is that of Rob Thaxton (or Rico) who is spending seven years in the Oregon prison system for his involvement in J18 activities in Eugene in 1999. His trial drew little support outside of northwestern U.S. anarchist circles and, perhaps because of that (and the obvious prejudice of the judge), he received close to the maximum sentence.

If more of our comrades end up in prisons this can be a beneficial organizing opportunity. As historical events like Attica and the struggles for justice in California prisons in the Sixties and seventies showed, prisoners of capitalism are open to political education and organization.

However, it is important to remember that organization of those on the outside is equally important and that the emotional and political perspectives of the two groups (outside and inside prisons) are not always the same. While life is undeniably brutish in many working class communities in the world, prison is even more so. Consequently, the sense of desperation is often magnified when one is inside. This means that one is often prepared to take very desperate measures that, while making perfect tactical sense to a prisoner, do not make a similar sense when considered objectively from the outside. In addition, the controlled environment of the prison allows for even more police interference and manipulation of people and projects than occurs in the "free" world.

All this said, let us take inspiration and instruction from those in jail in Philadelphia and Los Angeles, and those political prisoners throughout the United States. The struggle to free these prisoners and the struggle to free us all from the economic prison of global capitalism and its evils are one and the same. ◆

Let us take inspiration and instruction from those in jail in Philadelphia and Los Angeles, and those political prisoners throughout the United States. The struggle to free these prisoners and the struggle to free us all from the economic prison of global capitalism and its evils are one and the same.

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"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

(Blueberry, continued)

system was created and is sustained through laws and government subsidies that favor the profit-centered model. While this may seem like a good deal at Safeway, the externalized costs to exploited workers, the environment, and our quality of life are enormous. According to David Korteum, "This system features chemical intensive mechanized production, long-distance shipping, captive contract producers, migrant laborers paid bare subsistence wages, and large government subsidies paid to giant corporations." At the local level, what should be farm land focused on producing for local consumption is instead converted into endless urban sprawl that destroys habitat and ecosystems.

Imagine instead a vast system of small, local, sustainable, organic family farms producing primarily for local consumption. "Although moving toward more localized food and agricultural systems and healthier, less fatty diets would require adjustments in our eating habits, this is not a vision of sacrifice and deprivation. Rather, it is a vision of a fertile earth and of a vibrant and secure human communities populated by people with healthy bodies and minds nourished by wholesome, uncontaminated foods. The elements of this system are technically and socially feasible. They simply require restructuring the relevant systems in line with the human rather than the corporate interest. "

Here in Thurston County we are on the front lines of this struggle to reshape our future. According to the American Farmland Trust's "Farming on the Edge" report, our region ranks fifth among the top twenty most threatened farming regions in the nation. Most of Thurston County is designated as "high quality" farmland in a "high development" area. The response of our corrupt local government to this situation has been to continue to dole out the subsidies to developers ("developer welfare"), and make exceptions to the zoning laws and comprehensive plan in order to *pave* the way (in some cases literally) for continued sprawl.

How to counter and reverse this trend will probably require various approaches. SOSCFLT works to acquire and hold farmland for the benefit of the community through following the Community Land Trust model "originally conceived of and implemented on the East Coast," and "quickly gaining support in the Northwest." Preservation is achieved through buying and selling arrangements that permanently restrict the use of the land to farming and affordable housing purposes. SOSCFLT is working with the guidance of the Institute for Community Economics.

OK, so now you can fight globalization, help protect a community treasure, and enjoy an afternoon of adventurous blueberry picking all at the same time! So, if you haven't already, now is the time to get out your calendar, call a friend, and schedule a day to get out to the Blueberry Farm in the next week or two, before its too late. I suggest wearing long pants and a long sleeve shirt so you can comfortably venture into the inner areas of the farm. Whether you get 10 pounds, or just a stomach full, it makes for great outdoor fun.

To get out to the farm, just head out Steam Boat Island Road. It's on the right about a mile past Gravley Beach Rd. If you would like more information, to join a work party, or whatever, call Jim McGinn at (360) 273-5368. ◆

eBay Auction: Seats at Prisoner's Execution

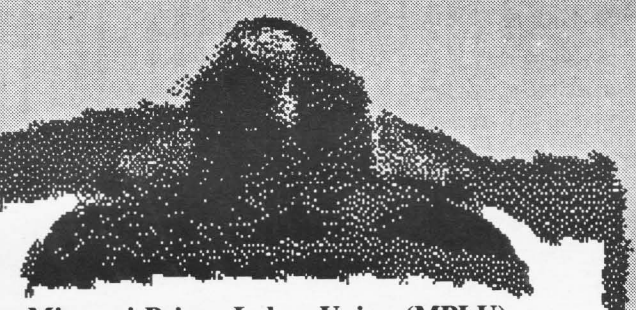
The letter below was listed in May on the eBay Internet action site. Ebay removed it four hours after it was posted.

My name is Michael Toney. Most people call me Cowboy. I am on Texas's death row, awaiting execution for a crime I did not commit. It is against Texas law for a person who has been convicted of a crime to profit from the crime itself. I do not intend to profit. However, I have a responsibility to my two beautiful daughters. I have a right to choose five people to witness my execution. I have decided to select the five by taking bids on each of the seats. The five highest bidders will be asked to donate the amount of their bid to my children. I figure the bidders will be one of two types: a compassionate person who understands what I am doing and wishes to help my children overcome the obstacle of their father's death, or a sadist. I will thank the compassionate and I will forgive the sadists. My goals are to own up to my responsibility to my children, whom I have neglected for some thirteen years, and to shed some light on the injustices in this country, and especially those in Texas. I know that innocent people are being executed.

One the five highest donors are determined and accepted, I will withdraw my right to appeal this wrongful conviction. About six months later I will be given a murder date. My murder will take place within the following month or so at 6:00 pm in Huntsville, Texas, by lethal injection. For those of you who may be sadists, I will provide you with proof that lethal injection is not the painless and humane death that most believe it is. I will also supply you with a detailed description of my feelings of knowing that I will be murdered. I will even tell you how it feels as I draw my last breaths. I know the auctioning of witness seats to a murder is unheard of, but I assure you that this is legitimate. What could be more serious than death?

If you would like more information, feel free to contact me at <mrcoboytoney@hotmail.com>

PRISON UNION CALLS BOYCOTT



The Missouri Prison Labor Union (MPLU), comprised of roughly 500 inmates and supporters, has announced a boycott against the Colgate Palmolive corporation. Legally chartered by the state of Missouri in 1998, the MPLU was formed as a result of the civil and human rights abuses as well as the living and working conditions of inmates in the Missouri prison system.

Nationwide, many inmates are being compelled to work for state-owned production companies or private corporations which have seized the opportunity to employ captive labor with no rights.

The MPLU has begun a campaign to extend the minimum wage requirement to all prison labor, ban forced labor, end of abuses by the Department of Corrections, and establish a moratorium on executions in Missouri.

Colgate Palmolive has been targeted for the boycott because it is the largest vendor of products in prison commissaries across the country. The MPLU asked Colgate Palmolive to endorse its objectives. Colgate refused.

"This is a matter of Colgate Palmolive reaping immense profits off our incarceration," MPLU national communications officer Michael Lee wrote the company, "and as the largest single consumer block you have a social obligation to us."

Call Ron Segal at Colgate consumer affairs (800/763-0246) and tell him that you do not wish to buy Colgate products due to its inaction and profiting from incarcerated prisoners. Or e-mail them from their website: <www.colgate.com/e-mail>

You can also support the MPLU activists within the Missouri Prison System by sending stamps and donations. You can send both to Jerome White Bey #37479, President, MPLU, Potosi Correctional Institution, Rt. 2 Box 2222 (3a-46), Mineral Point, MO 63660.

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books to Prisoners - Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generosity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:
Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

Please donate:

- Any other good books
- Stamps and stamp money
- Money for tape, wrapping paper, and copying

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner at Olympia World News at 116 4th Ave in downtown Olympia

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Hours: Currently, the business hours are from 9:00 am to 9:30 pm daily. Please call the message phone below and leave a message.

Address: Books to Prisoners
116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Message Phone: (360)943-2375

- Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of Olympia World News. *Training takes 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime we are open.*
- **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sat. of the month, 3 pm at 116 E. 4th Ave.
- **Save UPC code from Western Family Products &** send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501
- Shop at Bayview and Ralph's and use a special card and they'll donate $$ to BTP. Pick up your card at BTP now or call them and they'll mail one to you.

URGENT: If you have receipts from Bayview and Ralph's dated before July 1st, turn them in or mail them to BTP by July 10th so they can use them to pay the rent!

LEONARD PELTIER JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

The next six months is a very important time for Leonard Peltier. There seems to be a possiblity that Clinton will make a decision on Leonard's clemency before he leaves office. The FBI and it's supporters are campaining against clemency for Leonard, those that support Leonard have to meet that challenge with our own campaign for public support. Leonard was a part of NW AIM and lived in Seattle before he went to Pine Ridge. Most of those that were at the AIM camp at the time of the firefight were from NW AIM.

SEPT. 9th MARCH & RALLY
Noon, 1st & Yesler, Seattle
Rally at Steinbreuck Park

If you or your organization wants to help with the Seattle events please contact Seattle Leonard Peltier Support Group at: 206-325-0085 or <SLPSG@aol.com>.

Call the White House Comments Line Today Demand Justice for Leonard Peltier! 202-456-1111

COUNTDOWN TO CLEMENCY!

We want to announce that we are embarking on a crucial fund drive from now until Leonard's birthday, September 12th. We are taking this step because Leonard_s possibilities for release are dwindling rapidly. As you well know, his appeals have been exhausted, his chances of parole are extremely thin, and the clock is ticking toward President Clinton's last days in office. We have until January 20th to persuade him to do the right thing, and set Leonard free. We must keep in mind that the President may well be considering whether or not to grant Leonard's release at this very moment. Indeed, the chance for executive clemency, Leonard's best hope, may well reach its peak at the end of the Clinton Presidency, after the November election and before January 20th. We must be prepared.

For the first time, and hopefully the last, we are taking the necessary step of asking each of Leonard's supporters to contribute a minimum donation. While we understand that this may well be difficult for many of you, even a small amount will make a significant difference.

We are offering special gifts for donations of $25 or greater. The breakdown of gifts is as follows: * $25 a free year's subscription to *Spirit of Crazy Horse* news

* $50 *Prison Writings: My Life is My Sundance*, by Leonard Peltier
* $100 newly printed "Free Peltier" sweatshirts
* $150 rare "What about Joe?" poster regarding the suspicious death of Joe Stuntz
* $500 your choice of a formerly unavailable numbered print of "Grandma Jumping Bull," "Spirit of the Bear," or "Big Mountain Lady" painted by Leonard Peltier
* $1,000 or more a set of the above prints, an Edward Curtis lithograph, the last available hard copy of Peter Matthiessen's *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse* signed by the author, or a hand beaded necklace made by Leonard Peltier (all while supplies last)
* $5,000(!) Your choice of an original oil painting by Leonard Peltier.

For more information: Leonard Peltier Defense Committee PO Box 583 Lawrence, KS 66044 785-842-5774 <www.freepeltier.org>

Briefs, continued

them out to vote on November 7.

The Bush-Cheney "rich draft dodger" train can be stopped if enough Americans show up to vote them down. In fact, the only way any Republican is ever elected is when turn-out is very low.

Clarifying: I am the quintessential tweedledee-tweedledum two-half-parties-of-rich cynic and before today I was on the sidelines and recommending "boycott the election, on to revolution!" strategy.

What turned me around?

Precisely, today, Joe Lieberman's candidacy and the shock, surprise, and anti-Jewish bigotry I see awakening in the right wing. That was enough for me to abandon the sidelines and rally behind Senator Lieberman's candidacy and (by default) behind "The Bore."

Also, the realization that the next puppet in the White House will appoint not less than 3 and likely 4 Supreme Court justices. I doubt anyone (even Gore) would be worse than Dubya on that task.

At any rate, as Mr. Moore points out, We The People, the majority, are the 100 million plus non-voters. With Lieberman we have a rare opportunity: the grind the "Reagan revolution" at last to a halt. To stop the right wing offensive we have seen since the early 1970s. To then start turning the tide.

Third parties? While I much admire Ralph Nader and would extend that admiration to David McReynolds (in Mr. Baurick's article), I suggest that is the wrong way to go: running for president "without hope of winning" as Mr. Baurick agrees is the case both for the Greens and the Socialists. If we are serious about replacing the Tweedledee-Tweedledum "two half-parties" monopoly, we must start at a local level not on a national level, like Bernie Sanders in Vermont or Jesse Ventura in Minnesota, whom Mr. Moore correctly assesses was a protest vote for such high office as governor!

I propose going even smaller: to the level of city and county officials, of state legislators from working class districts. Do that not in one district but simultaneously nationwide. That would produce "some" wins from where the party begin to build a power base. That is the logical strategy to build a third party, not going away for the presidency as most Left party do today, with ever dismal results.

Ana Lucia Gelabert

Welfare Rights Organizing

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the **first Monday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church**, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

PFLAG's Monthly Meeting
Sunday, Sept 10th at 2pm
United Methodist Church

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

Problems with your landlord?

Call the Thurston County Tenants Union hotline at (360)**943-3036 or come by our monthly public legal clinic on Monday, September 11th at 6pm in the Tumwater Library.** Come to volunteer and join the Board.

Local Fair Housing

Why go further than the State and Federal Statutes? is a panel presentation sponsored by the Fair Housing Partnership of Thurston County.

7pm, Thurs, Sept 28th
The Olympia Center

Join us in a lively discussion in which panelist will address local fair housing laws, exploring such issues as: Why do local communities add to the list of protected classes in their anti-discrimination laws? Are these laws adequately enforced? How can we make fair housing a reality for everyone in our community? Panelists include Bill Crabtree of the Thurston Rental Owners Association, Eleanor Winkler with the State Office, Jim Brown of the Tenants Union and Curt Pavola, Olympia City Councilmember. For more info call Anna Schlecht at 753-8183.

Mexico Solidarity Network

The Mexico Solidarity Network is organizing a nationwide Fall 2000 Human Rights Campaign consisting of twelve regional tours. The Northwest tour will visit **Olympia October 6-8** to feature Hilda Naverette, indigenous human rights activist from Guerrero, Mexico. Each tour will include speaking events at universities and in the communities; corporate campaigns targeting US-based multi-nationals profiting off of "free trade" and the deterioration of human rights in Mexico; and educational meetings with media and local elected officials. The tours are part of the Mexico Solidarity Network's campaign "aimed at implementation of the San Andes Accords, support for Human Rights monitoring, demilitarization of indigenous areas, and an end to US military aid and training for Mexico."

For more information - contact Heidi in Olympia at 570-8218 or the Mexico Solidarity Network, <msn@mexicosolidarity.org>

SafePlace Training

Safeplace:Rape Relief and Women's Shelter Services is now recruiting dedicated volunteers. Application deadline is Sept 13th. Volunteer training begins Oct 2nd. We need your time, talents and experience for:

*Counseling and referral
*Working with youth
*Answering crisis line calls
*Facilitating support groups
*Community outreach
*Fundraising
*Office work and more

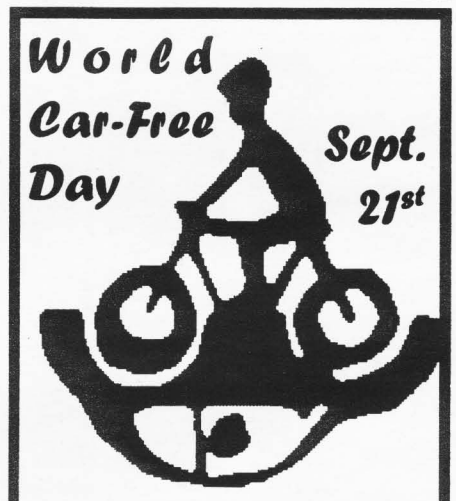
For info: 786-8754 v/TTY

Ballroom Dancing

Four hours of real ballroom dancing, including a one-hour free dance lesson. Dress up is requested.

September 2nd
Olympia Elks
7-8pm Dance Class
8-11pm Dancing to live music

Sponsored by the Olympia Chapter of the United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association. New members are admitted free. Call 459-5469 for info.


World Car-Free Day
Sept. 21st
The City will begin to levy fines against motorists to recover the hidden costs of automobile transportation. The fine to drivers is $17,000 to factor in the average cost of an autombile to society with social and environmental costs added.
Automobiles incur economic costs on the city which have not been included in the retail price of the car. Driver operation of such a vehicle are personally responsible for the following:
Climate change
Ozone depletion
Depletion of non-renewable resources
Environmental clean-up costs
Time wasted in gridlock
Hindering bicycle and pedestrian actvities
Noise pollution
Smog-related health problems
www.adbusters.org

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE!

SEE PAGE 2

My grandson, the cell phone

by Mac dawg

Someday, everyone will be a cell phone. Babies will be born with telephone numbers. Who needs names? That's so 20th century. Who talks to people one on one anymore? I think, therefore I am a cellphone. Why am I refering to the word cell phone. THAT is sooooo 20th century fox.

I'd like to give a high five to the human who copyrighted the name "21st century fox". That was someone who was thinking ahead. Why can't politicians be like that? I've not once heard George Jr. talk about registering our eyes through government agencies. Once we can connect what we see from person to person, the feds will want to be in on it. If memory could be recalled, maybe we could download George Jr. closing in on a fat rail of coke. Coke is it! Now that Coca Cola can become a "friend" to a neighborhood, city, etc., we'll be seeing alot more of our current replacement of the dog as man's best friend. Let's put the coke back in coke, George Jr. Do the Dew! Just do it! Generation Next. You got the right one baby! It's a good time for the great taste of.....

Jesus Day June 10th, did you celebrate? Why not, you communist, baby killing, gay loving, tree hugging, pot smoking, anti american scum? George Jr. made this event possible. This is a gift from our future president. December 25th is not enough. Let's make it a requirement for our kids and neighbors to bow down to the son of god. Satan is killing America. Rebuke those demons and cast them into a lake of fire. Al Gore is the Anti Christ.....but what does that make Ralph Nader?

Ever since I saw the Power team at the Key Arena (It was the Seattle Center Coliseum at that time), I've had to think twice(another day in paradise). Did jesus die for people to rip up phone books(and not recycle) in his name? To make thinks even more tripped out, what about MC Hammer's presense on the Jesus channel? What a smooth transition! i wonder where he was on June 10th?

Last week, I woke up to KISS 106 around 7:45am. The commercial was for cell phones. Two guys in their 20's were talking about cell phones. One guy did not have one. His friend proceeded to tell him that he was a caveman living in the dark ages. Then he explained how simple it was to get a cell phone and how blah blah blah was giving away cell phones on a one time only basis. I hit the snooze button. Two hours later, I found myself shoveling bark, at work. A #2 was about to go down. I headed to the bathroom. On the way there, I saw an advertisement for the convergence in LA. I wanted to go. I had to think for a minute about the cost of going to LA. Could I afford to go? No. I must work. In order for personal progress, I must work. I want to go to grad school, but I must work in order to pay for the test to go to grad school. I don't have the time to protest. I don't have the money to protest. I can't afford to bail myself out of jail. The protesters want media coverage, but a wise man once said, "The revolution will not be televised." I only get the religious channel on my television. Time is money. Boy, I wish more things in life were free. but Janet Jackson said the best things in life are free.

It's OK that I don't own a cell phone. It's OK that I don't own a car. It's OK that I think this presidential election is helping cure insomnia throughout America. Camelot, the Bush family. Who needs the Kennedys? Maybe 9 years from now, Billy Joel will write we didn't start the fire 2009.

He'll be 60. He'll need the money. Oh well, I need to go find some pot and party. All Hail To The Cheif! And maybe I'll find a cell phone on the side of the road. ◆

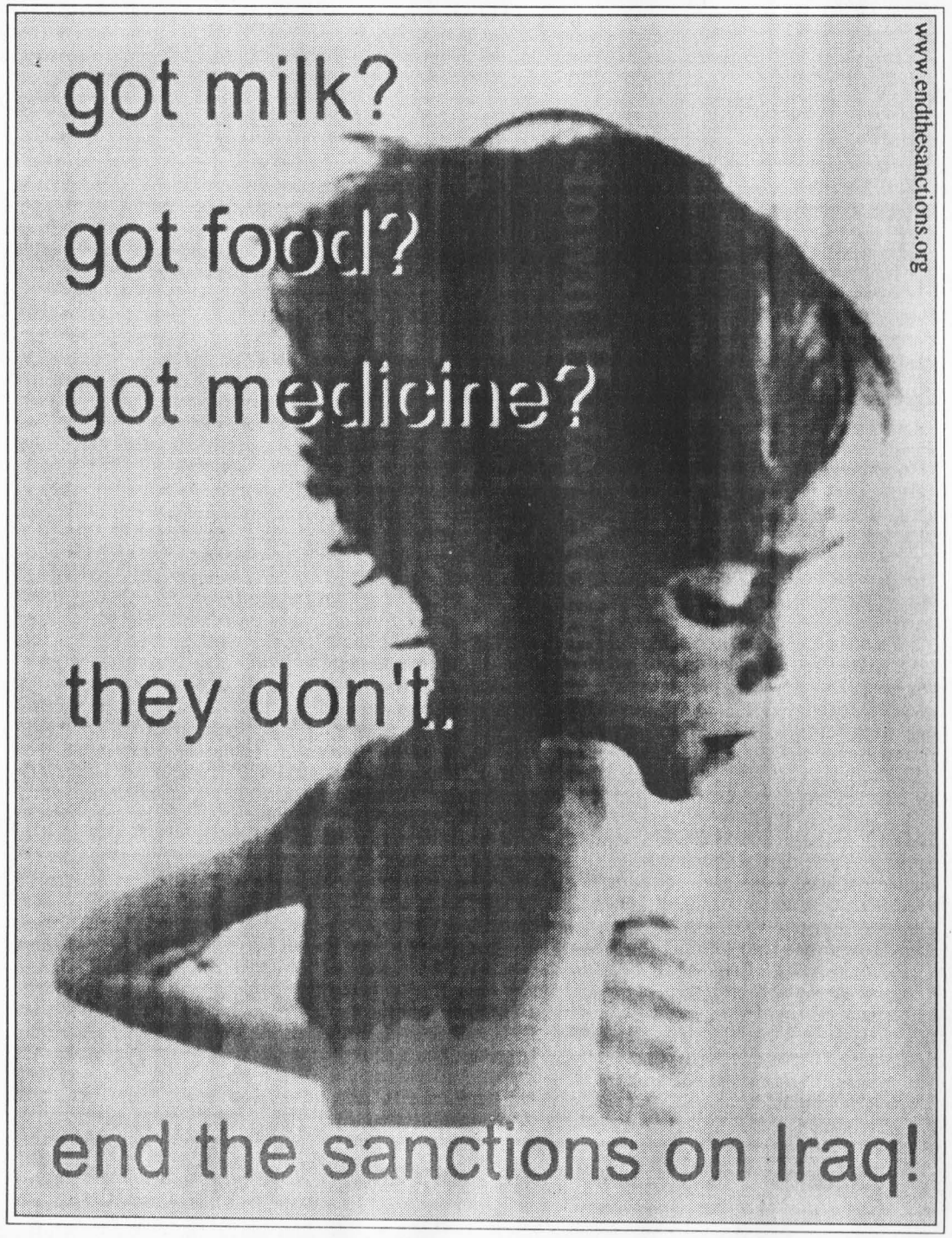
1 Community Blueberry Farming & Small-Town Hate + Children First!

4 Sodexho-Marriot Alternative

6 Why Camp David Failed

8-9 KAOS at a Crossroads & Community Radio

11 Beyond Boundaries



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TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
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SEPTEMBER 2000

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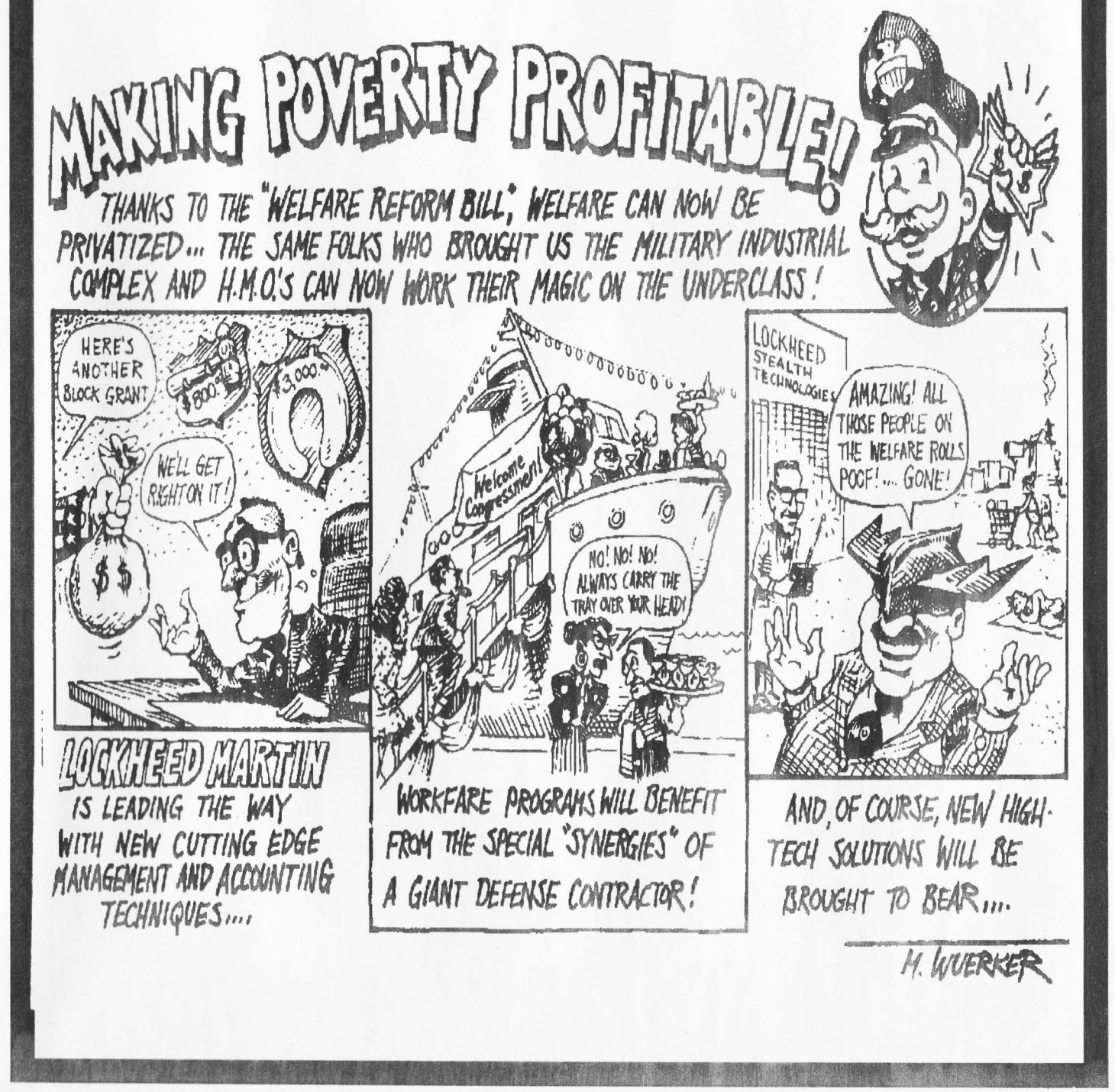
MAKING POVERTY PROFITABLE!
THANKS TO THE "WELFARE REFORM BILL", WELFARE CAN NOW BE PRIVATIZED... THE SAME FOLKS WHO BROUGHT US THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND H.M.O.'S CAN NOW WORK THEIR MAGIC ON THE UNDERCLASS!
HERE'S ANOTHER BLOCK GRANT
$800
$3,000
WE'LL GET RIGHT ON IT!
$$
LOCKHEED MARTIN IS LEADING THE WAY WITH NEW CUTTING EDGE MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTING TECHNIQUES....
Welcome Congressmen!
NO! NO! NO! ALWAYS CARRY THE TRAY OVER YOUR HEAD!
WORKFARE PROGRAMS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SPECIAL "SYNERGIES" OF A GIANT DEFENSE CONTRACTOR!
LOCKHEED STEALTH TECHNOLOGIES
AMAZING! ALL THOSE PEOPLE ON THE WELFARE ROLLS POOF!... GONE!
AND, OF COURSE, NEW HIGH-TECH SOLUTIONS WILL BE BROUGHT TO BEAR....
H. WUERKER